

THE GATEWAY

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OH GOD, IT'S RAINING WOMEN Sklyablush's futuristic painting, *All Want Love*, fuses modernist architecture with '50s-era bikini models and a monolithic geisha. Starting on page 13, the Gateway profiles the work of four U of A artists.

Council vote short on candidates, again

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The annual Students' Council elections are set for today and tomorrow, giving U of A students a chance to vote on who will represent them on the Student Union's highest body—most students, anyway.

As in the past, the number of candidates for seats on Council has fallen well short of the 42 seats available. Only two of 16 faculties have more candidates than seats—Science, with 13 candidates for eight seats, and Law, with two for one—while seven—Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, Augustana, Native Studies, Nursing, Open Studies, Pharmacy, and Rehab Medicine—have no candidates at all.

According to the SU Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woyrnorowski, such figures aren't at all out of the ordinary.

"It's on par. The only really strange thing that's happened this year is the huge number of candidates running in Science," she said.

Hand-in-hand with low candidate interest is low voter interest: while turnout for the SU Executive election earlier this month was over 20 per cent, one of the highest such figures in Canada, turnout for the Council

election usually hovers around five per cent, and in smaller faculties can sometimes drop below two per cent.

"CAB, V-Wing and a lot of the Science buildings are pretty heavily poster'd, which is nice because it makes the election visible."

RACHEL WOYRNOROWSKI,
SU CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Though all candidates are faced with a "none of the above" option on the ballot, it rarely if ever affects a candidate. As a result, otherwise uncontested races tend to be quieter and less visible as candidates are more restrained in their campaigning, making it difficult to attract voters to the election, according to Woyrnorowski.

"CAB, V-Wing and a lot of the Science buildings are pretty heavily poster'd, which is nice because it makes the election visible. They haven't always been, and it's something we struggle with," she said.

PLEASE SEE VOTE • PAGE 2

Ambassador Sproule praises Canada's role in Afghanistan

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Deputy News Editor

As a result of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's increased commitment to Afghanistan, Canada's role has been changing in the war-torn country. Yesterday, Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan David Sproule was on campus to discuss how efforts will proceed.

"The obligations that Afghanistan has taken on, insofar as international human rights instruments are concerned, reflect what should be considered universal values now."

AMBASSADOR DAVID SPROULE

Sproule, who joined Foreign Affairs Canada in 1981 and was appointed ambassador in 2005, said that, despite the recent rise in conflict, the situation

in Afghanistan isn't necessarily getting worse.

"I think the ones we're having an upsurge in the attacks is that our forces are going to areas that they've never gone in before, some of which have the Taliban," he said, adding that insurgent forces are testing the strength and determination of defending forces. "I think it's pretty icy."

Sproule, a native of Edmonton who studied both political science and law at the U of A, was involved in the Afghanistan Compact, an international conference held in January 2006, affirming a shared commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Compact identified three main goals that would contribute to the betterment of Afghan life: security, government and economic and social development.

"The obligations that Afghanistan has taken on, insofar as international human rights instruments are concerned, reflect what should be considered universal values now: freedom of religion, the right to association, freedom of speech—those aren't culturally specific anymore, if they ever were," he said.

PLEASE SEE AFGHANISTAN • PAGE 2

Former Black Panther to give final Revolutionary Speakers Series lecture

ALEXANDER DEACON
News Staff

Dr Angela Davis's vigil against racism, injustice, and oppression has led her from universities in Europe to the FBI's most wanted list, and this Tuesday it will bring her to the Myer Horowitz theatre as the final lecturer in this year's Revolutionary Speakers Series.

Her lecture, entitled "Global Resistance to Global Capitalism: Reforming Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century," will address an array of issues, including the current status of democracy, and how the United States is exporting its own peculiar brand of freedom.

"In the US, we're governed by a president who represents his government, and this country, as the world's leader with respect to democracy, and this is the justification for military assaults, for torture, for denial of rights and liberties," she said.

She also noted that the ongoing conflict in Iraq is having a profound, and often underappreciated, effect on global dynamics.

"We've just observed the third

anniversary of the war on Iraq, and I would like to urge people to think very deeply about the implications of what's going on in the world."

She elaborated on that theme, arguing that the current buzzwords of the Bush administration—freedom and liberty—are having their meanings redefined in the current climate of aggression in the ever-present war against global terrorism.

"I would like us to think about the meanings of these terms, the meaninglessness of these terms within the particular rhetoric employed by the government of the United States," she said.

Davis has been an outspoken activist for her entire life. At age eleven, she was a member of an interracial discussion group in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama, where racial segregation was an inescapable fact of life. Because of the group's activities, the church where they met was eventually bombed.

"I remember that my mother constantly told us that this was not the way things were supposed to be, and that someday they'd be different, and

that we could help to make that difference," she explained.

Davis has maintained her committed sense of activism throughout her university career, striving to combine her academic and activist work, and she hopes to encourage people to think more deeply about circumstances in their lives and their responsibilities as citizens of North America in an increasingly global community. She emphasized that activism can be an element of people's day-to-day lives.

"I would say, as I've said many times before, that the work that I do as an activist isn't extraordinary, it's not the result of an epiphany; it's simply the way I've learned over the years to live my life."

Davis is Presidential Chair and Professor at the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, as well as director of the Feminist Studies department. She is the author of nine books, and was the Communist candidate for US Vice-President in 1980 and 1984. Her lecture will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, 28 March at the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Inside

News	1-3
National News	4-5
Opinion	7-10
Features	11-16
Sports	17-20
A&E	21-25
Comics	26-27
Classifieds	28



Into the Bears den

Do Bears win in the finals? There's only one way to find out: read up on this weekend's University Cup.

SPORTS, PAGE 17



Flight training

Everybody has fond childhood memories that influence the rest of their lives—even Osama.

COMICS, PAGE 27

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Low voter turnout expected again for Council election

Law aside, most faculties traditionally see single-digit turnout for Students' Council elections

VOTE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Because the positions [in other faculties] are uncontested, people aren't too worried about putting up posters, which is unfortunate, because posting is one of the biggest ways we do election promotion. It's why we give candidates money."

Law, where Council and faculty association elections are held at the same time and both tend to be much more visible than in other faculties, had over 60 per cent voter turnout last year, and Woyonowski predicted another high turnout this year. She also said she expects Science turnout to exceed its usual five to seven per cent range. Aside from that, though, low turnout is expected across the board.

"It really depends on how visible the elections are," she said. "It's hard to engage the normal student to vote when you say there's an election going on right now and they look around and say, 'Where?'"

It will be a little easier for students to vote this year, however. In the past, students have had to vote at specific polls for their faculty, but with the introduction of electronic ballot-

ing, voters can now cast their ballots at any of the polling stations around campus.

"Because the positions [in other faculties] are uncontested, people aren't too worried about putting up posters, which is unfortunate, because posting is one of the biggest ways we do election promotion."

RACHEL WOYONOWSKI,
SU CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

There's one caveat, though: some faculties—including Arts, Science, and Law—are also running their faculty association elections in conjunction with the Council election, and students wishing to vote in both at the same time will still need to go to a faculty-specific poll.

Afghans 'proud of their constitution:' ambassador

AFGHANISTAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And while Afghanistan has signed many international human rights agreements, including ratifying a commitment to the International Criminal Court, without economic development, Sproule is skeptical that the country can achieve its goals.

"If we don't provide security, Afghanistan cannot go forward economically," Sproule said, adding that the two are "mutually enforcing."

Further challenges exist in relation to narcotics, which account for 60 per cent of the Afghan economy, according to Sproule. He went on to say that Canada can play a role in helping Afghans develop alternative livelihoods, instead of relying on poppy growers.

Other reform initiatives include an effort to train police forces, and reform a justice system that is fraught with problems.

"The justice system is very rudimentary; there's not an extensive body of law," he said, explaining that, despite the desire to adhere to international human rights, there's a lack of framework in the Afghan legal system. "They don't have the implementing legislation."

Canadian troops and other members of the international community have made long-term commitments to the area, but Sproule emphasized

that Afghans are quite involved in the rebuilding process too, and that both factions are working together so Afghanistan reach independence.

"It's important that the Afghans that observe this say, 'It's our soldiers that are involved in providing security for us. It's not only foreign soldiers who are there and helping provide our security.' That's also important from an optics point of view," Sproule said.

And while one audience member alluded to an "underlying colonial flavour" to the involvement of Western governments in Afghanistan, saying they have a notorious history for cultural oppression to serve their own interests, Sproule said that the Afghans are playing an important role in the democratization of their nation.

"The constitution that was adopted in Afghanistan wasn't a Western document; this was what Afghans decided to adopt as their constitution, and it was a made-in-Afghanistan document," he said. "They're very proud of their constitution."

He went on to say that democracy is of growing importance in Afghanistan, which is especially evident in the recent presidential elections.

"The way to succeed in Afghanistan isn't the way they were able to in the past—by might is right—but by democratic means," he said.

STREETERS

The Golden Bears hockey squad will take to the ice at home as the defending champions and top seed for the Telus University Cup, today through Sunday.

Do you plan to attend any of the games?

Kelsey Chegus
Engineering IVJenny Dromparis
Science IJosh Friesen
Computer
Science IIMary Thompson
Pharmacy I

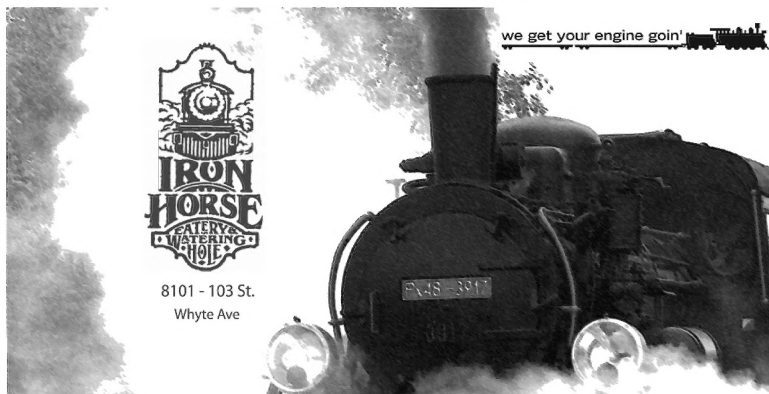
No. I have to give a presentation in Red Deer on Sunday, so I won't have the time to go to any of the games.

No, probably not. I just don't have the time to go; it's going to be a busy week.

No. I don't go to a lot of sporting events, and just really don't have the time.

I didn't even know that the University Cup was going on. But now that I know ... no, I probably won't go. I've got exams coming up, so I don't have the time to go.

Compiled and photographed by Scott Lilwall and Dana Komperdo

8101 - 103 St.
Whyte Ave

Business students go homeless for YESS

ALEXANDER DEACON
News Staff

The U of A School of Business is challenging the notion that business and greed go hand-in-hand, as two of its students are spending the week living homeless to raise money and awareness for the Youth Emergency Shelter Society (YESS).

Clark Barr and Frank Callele, both fourth-year Business students at the U of A, have been emulating the life of a homeless person since Monday, continuing until Friday as part of this year's Five Days for the Homeless campaign. In addition to giving up such comforts as a reliable source of food, the duo will not be able to shower or sleep indoors for the duration of the week.

"We started [20 March] at midnight, and we slept outside. I think the first sleeps may be the hardest ones. I sure struggled to get to sleep—it's pretty cold outside," said Barr.

Callele explained that the motivation for spending a week without everyday amenities came from the desire to make a contribution to the community, and especially to youth who don't enjoy the same opportunities that many people take for granted.

"Sleeping on a grate really brought that home to me again. You know, just the simple comforts of your own bed, or being in a warm room, are really taken for granted sometimes," said Callele.

All proceeds will be donated to YESS, a society dedicated to providing aid for at-risk youth. Last year, Barr and Callele raised over \$2000, and this year they hope to raise \$2500.

"We're going to approach students throughout the week. Most students are very responsive, and give whatever they can," said Callele. "That's one thing that really surprised us last year. On the last couple of days we probably



NO ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS Business students Clark Barr and Frank Callele are sleeping outside this week for their second annual fundraising campaign.

raised over \$1000 by just passing a hat around."

A new element has also been added to this year's campaign. Dr. Sandy Hilton, an accounting professor in the School of Business, is going to spend one night sleeping outdoors with Barr and Callele for every \$500 that the staff and students at the business school raise.

"I think the first sleeps may be the hardest ones. I sure struggled to get to sleep—it's pretty cold outside."

FRANK CALLELE

Hilton said that he became involved as an attempt to get Business students more involved in the campaign that is already garnering much attention from the Business faculty due to its originality.

"That's what I liked about this. It's not your everyday fundraiser. And plus, [Barr and Callele] are willing to put themselves on the line for it," he said. "Frank and Clark have a passion for raising money for the emergency shelter, and would do it whether it brought in 1000 bucks or 3000 bucks. It doesn't really matter."

This is the second year that Barr and Callele have put on the Five Days campaign, and although both students are graduating this year, they hope that the fundraiser will not only become an annual event at the University, but will spread to other campuses as well.

"Next year there's a few people interested, and we're hoping that we can pass it on to them," said Callele.

Barr went on to say that some of his friends from McMaster's Business school took part in a similar campaign last fall.

"They're looking to do it again this year as well," said Barr. "It's kind of cool to see something that you started go to another campus."

HAPPY HOUR

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TUES WELL HIGHBALLS \$3.00 & BIG ROCK PINTS \$3.75

WED WELL HIGHBALLS \$3.00 KOKANE & KOKANE GOLD PINTS FOR \$3.75

THURS WELL HIGHBALLS \$3.00 & CANADIAN AND COORS LITE PINTS \$3.75

FRI WELL HIGHBALLS \$3.00 & BIG ROCK PINTS \$3.75

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WWW.SU-VENUES.CA

Campus Bars: a service for students, staff, alumni and guests

CompSci student takes on big responsibility with NATO internship

Matti Heikkila charged with helping keep NATO's information secure

EDMON ROTEY
News Staff

For Matti Heikkila, working and living abroad as an intern can be a challenging experience—especially when your internship is at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) headquarters in Brussels.

Fortunately, Heikkila's civilian and military experiences have helped him overcome a variety of challenges and adventures—including adjusting to life in a foreign country.

"Brussels is definitely different from Canada. If I could come up with a Canadian equivalent, it would have to be Vancouver. It rains quite a bit here," says Heikkila, who recently began his six-month internship at NATO earlier this month.

Heikkila, a third-year U of A computing science major, is currently working at NATO's Executive Management Division, a department composed of international staff who oversee the daily operation and support of all elements operating at NATO headquarters. The department's functions range from support and conference services, to human and financial resources, to information management—functions that demand a high degree of computer network security.

Through Heikkila couldn't comment about the details of his internship for security reasons, he believes that a variety of computer security issues pose a great threat to computer networks all over the world.

"For me, viruses, worms and the identification of malware [malicious software programs intended to infiltrate and damage a computer without the owner's consent] are extremely important and will only continue to increase in severity. I believe that companies and large organizations are more likely to be targeted by specific, custom-designed malware," says Heikkila.

Heikkila's experience as a Reservist in the Canadian Forces has also been an asset—not only for his internship and postsecondary education, but life in general.

"The Communication Reserve has been an extremely important part of my life and growth as a person. During my military training, I've had the opportunity to learn many different skills. Not all the skills are transferable to life as a civilian, but you overcome so many challenges during a course that make daily civilian life not so difficult," says Heikkila, who also credits his military experience in helping him gain confidence in

overcoming challenges like his computing science courses.

"That sort of confidence is one of the most important things I've learned during my military courses and training. It's allowed me to push myself and achieve more than I imagined possible," adds Heikkila.

Heikkila has served in the Communication Reserve for the past five years as a Signals Operator—a position that entails working with telecommunications devices, computers, and matters of information and communication security. He also believes that his experience as a member of CRYPT—the Communication Reserves Information Protection Team—have helped arm him with a set of skills and experience that will benefit his internship. However, Heikkila continually strives to gain insight and knowledge about new things.

"I'm looking forward to learning new skills at NATO. It's always interesting to see the different approaches organizations use to address the complicated and unique problems associated with securing and managing a large information system," Heikkila explains.

"I really look forward to contributing and adding to the security and usability of the network."



WITH HIS LONG BEARD AND BLACK HAT, this 24-year-old lyricist, MC, and beatboxer is a singular performer, whose distinctive power, poetry, and skills unify the inspirations he found in Bob Marley, hip-hop, and his own cultural influences.

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Racial motives suspected after U of T hit and run sends man to hospital

Four men attending a Muslim theology seminar on University of Toronto campus Sunday in a hit and run attack.

ANAS MELHAM
The Variety

TORONTO (CUP)—A man is recuperating in hospital after being struck by a speeding vehicle on the University of Toronto campus Sunday in a hit and run attack.

A U of T official suggested the incident was motivated by road rage, but there are signs that racism may have been a factor in the attack.

A group of four young men, who were attending a Muslim theology seminar hosted by a non-profit organization called the al-Maghreb Institute, were returning from a break when an altercation broke out between them and the suspect in the hit and run. According to witnesses, the victim mocked the suspect after he caught him urinating on a wall. A verbal dispute ensued and culminated with the victim kicking the suspect's car, evidently infuriating him.

"My attention was diverted as soon as I heard the suspect yelling out racial slurs like, 'You fucking [racial epithet], don't fucking kick my car,'" said Fowzia Duale, who witnessed the incident. "The four guys were talking back to the suspect, but I couldn't hear them. After a minute he got into his car and went after them. He drove onto the sidewalk and tried to hit them but missed; I thought it was over when he sped off."

The suspect quickly returned, said Eman Ahmed, a second eyewitness.

"As the guys were crossing the street, the moment they stepped off the curb, we heard tires screaming. From where I was standing the next thing I saw was the [man] rolling off the hood of this guy's car and falling on the road."

"Even if the police investigation doesn't conclude that this was a hate crime, which it appears to be, its repercussions still affect a significant portion of the U of T's student body."

SHAILA KIBRIA,
U OF T STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT (EQUITY)

This isn't the only recent attack at U of T that's believed to be motivated by anti-Muslim sentiment. Last week, two Muslim students were assaulted in a campus washroom in what was apparently a racially motivated attack. Later, a group of Muslim students were egged. Police investigations are ongoing into those incidents, and there's no evidence of a connection between the previous attacks and Sunday's altercation, but that's of little comfort to students who are already feeling unsafe.

"The al-Maghreb Institute had posted the article about the Hart House incident on their website and told us to walk in groups for safety purposes," said Ahmed.

U of T Vice-Provost (Students) David Farrar said the al-Maghreb Institute, which isn't affiliated with U of T, has held events on campus in the past without incident.

"To our knowledge, none of the participants are students at the University, and the suspect was not a member of our community," he said. "It actually sounds like a road-rage kind of incident."

Outgoing Students' Administrative Council Vice-President (Equity) Shaila Kibria disagreed with Farrar's assessment, however.

"I'm disgusted by what this person did," said Kibria. "The guy used racial slurs during the altercation and then tried to run over that group of Somali men twice, hitting one, all within five minutes? If that doesn't constitute a hate crime, then what does?"

According to Kibria, this incident is the worst of a string of Islamophobic attacks at U of T.

"Even if the police investigation doesn't conclude that this was a hate crime, which it appears to be, its repercussions still affect a significant portion of the U of T's student body," she said. "Muslim students must feel safe on this campus, and that won't happen until the proper protective measures are taken."

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U of T student lodges racism complaint over controversial magazine in library

ADEEL AHMAD
The Varsity

TORONTO (CUP)—A University of Toronto student has lodged a formal complaint against one of the school's libraries after finding a magazine on its shelves that he said was disguised as a legitimate academic source.

The magazine, titled *Zionism is Racism*, was published in 1975 by the Communist Party of Canada, and features a collection of United Nations resolutions, newspaper articles and historical pictures. On the shelf, however, it looked like any other scholarly text, bound in hardcover and bearing the title *Zionism and Racism* on its spine.

Daniel Roth stopped short of calling the magazine hate literature, but did say that he was "rudely surprised" and "offended" by it. Roth said the title on the binding, implying a discussion of Zionism and racism rather than a claim about it, was deceptive and "there to fool people."

"It's a particular party with a par-

ticular agenda that's not backed up," Roth said.

In an e-mail sent to various campus organizations, Roth said that the credibility of the University was called into question by the fact that the material was placed in the Roberts Library stacks and intended to be a legitimate academic source.

"I don't know if students can trust that everything [at Roberts Library] is an academic resource," he said.

Roth, who described himself as a Progressive Zionist—a movement for which "peace and justice is a good slogan"—said that his complaint wasn't motivated by his political beliefs.

But rather than ask for the magazine to be removed from circulation, Roth asked that the binding be removed so that library patrons could appreciate the magazine themselves. He also asked for an apology from the library directed to all students.

In response to Roth's complaint, Gabriela Bravo, the assistant director

of Public Affairs for U of T Libraries, said that the problem was simply the result of a typo—namely, the substitution of the word "and" for "is" in the title. It may have occurred either at the bindery as a simple mistake, or it may have been the result of confusion with other titles. Regardless, she said the error will be corrected.

The hardcover binding was put in place to protect the magazine, which otherwise "would just get destroyed," according to Anne Dondertman, the assistant director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, where the magazine can also be found.

Dondertman stressed that a large research library such as Roberts has a mandate to "provide access to all points of view."

"[There are] tens of thousands of things somebody might find offensive," she said.

The library administration also plans to write a formal response to Roth informing him of its course of action.

Manitoba gives education a money shot

LEIGHTON KLASSEN
The Interim

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The release of the Manitoba provincial budget last week held its fair share of surprises, but the province's \$60 million investment into postsecondary education was one of the key highlights.

This marks the first time the NDP government has strategically split the funding for postsecondary education over a three-year period—a strategy Advanced Education and Training Minister Diane McGifford said will ensure long-term financial planning and keep student debt in check.

"By focusing on keeping student debt manageable and providing stable, predictable funding for three years, this government is demonstrating in an innovative and unprecedented way

its commitment to the future of post-secondary education in this province," McGifford said in a press release.

The province pumped an additional \$2 million into bursaries and scholarships, increased college and university operating budgets by 5.8 per cent in 2006/07 and five per cent in the following two years, increased funding to the University College of the North by \$1.56 million for this year, and invested \$1 million into college expansion initiatives.

Mathew Gagne, a spokesperson for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), was impressed with the announcements.

"There was certainly an element of surprise," Gagne said. "When we met with the minister, they always told us they were taking steps towards, and negotiating multi-year funding, but

they never really gave us any indication... but it's certainly a sign they are committed to students."

Gagne said the investment as a whole is impressive, but pointed to the increase in operating budget funding, grants and bursaries, and college expansion initiatives as especially useful.

"This targets lower-income students, so they did a pretty good job in addressing it," he says.

He also said the federal government now needs to step up to the plate and match the province's commitment to students.

"There is one more area [that needs funding]: research for professors and funding for professors—but that's a federal jurisdiction," he says. "The province is doing the best they can do, but it needs to be echoed by the feds."

PHOTO EDITOR

The Gateway has reopened hiring for the position of Photo Editor for the 2006-2007 publishing year (September 2006 to April 2007). Interested parties are encouraged to contact Matt Freeman, Incoming Editor-in-Chief, at photo@gateway.ualberta.ca or 492-6648.

CIRCULATION PALS

The Gateway is hiring two Circulation Public Affairs Liaisons (PALs) to deliver the Gateway during the 2006-2007 publishing year (September 2006 to April 2007). The successful applicant will be a reliable U of A undergraduate student able to produce a clean driver's abstract and available to work Tuesday and Thursday mornings and early afternoons. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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Canada shouldn't lobby to support terminator seeds

AT AN UPCOMING United Nations conference, the Canadian government will be lobbying to end an international moratorium on the development of "terminator seeds"—seeds that produce sterile offspring.

Companies that specialize in the development of "improved" strains sell seeds to farmers. Some staple-crop seeds are produced by a breeding technique called hybridization. First-generation hybrid plants are very uniform in their properties—something that's very important for intensive agriculture. Were farmers to try to plant seeds produced by these hybrids, however, their next crop would show huge variety—an unwanted side effect of the recombination of genes during sex. This means that, to have consistent yields, farmers buying hybridized seeds must buy every year. This is very profitable for breeders.

However, not all staple crops are produced by hybridization. The seeds of many plants, like wheat, rice and soybeans, can be bred and planted year after year. On many farms, seeds produced in one year are saved, to be planted in the next. This is much less profitable for breeders.

So, to force farmers growing these un-hybridized crops to buy fresh seed every year, large breeding companies have started modifying plants' genes so that their seeds effectively commit suicide—creating what are known as terminator seeds. When the plant produces seeds, they're loaded with a destructive toxin and are rendered infertile.

This is dangerous for many reasons. First, if the use of terminator seed strains became widespread, and there were, for whatever reason, an inability to produce or distribute the seeds, there would be widespread famine.

Second, if poor farmers are encouraged, tricked or forced into buying and planting terminator seeds, they will likely lose their farms and their livelihoods from the cost of buying seed every year.

Third, it's extremely probable that the terminator genes will spread to plants of the same species (or even closely related species) in adjacent fields through the process of cross-pollination. Though the effects would likely only last for a generation—the seeds of these plants would be terminators—it could ruin the crop of a farmer who wanted nothing to do with the seeds.

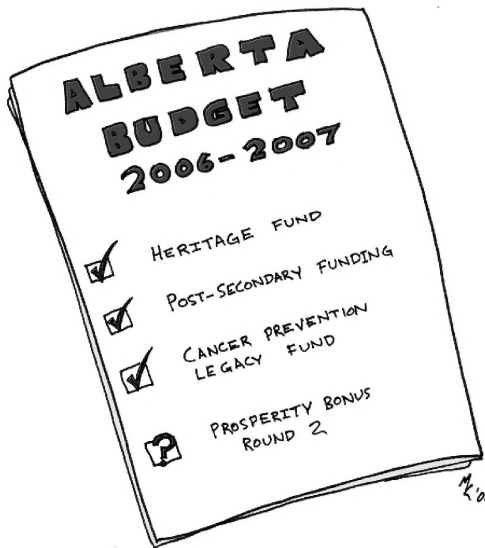
Fourth, these seeds could be hugely destructive to natural ecosystems. Because the seeds are, by design, loaded with toxins, and because insects, birds, mammals, bacteria and fungi all consume or interact with seeds, we run the risk not only of disrupting our crop production, but the lifecycles of many other organisms—with unforeseen, and unforeseeable, consequences.

Last, there will almost certainly be effects that no scientist, politician, not consumers, not farmers, not business heads, not even our best scientists, will be able to predict.

Given all of this, it seems that there should be some sort of overwhelming advantage given by self-terminating strains, some benefit to justify the risk. But there isn't. One of the only benefits proposed is that terminating strains would prevent the unwanted spread of genes from genetically modified strains—an argument that neglects the spread of the terminator genes themselves, and life's astonishing ability to adapt to our attempts at ingenuity. The real reason that terminator research is being encouraged isn't disinterested scientific inquiry, better crops or the prevention of gene spreading—it's profit.

Our civilization stands on the base of open scientific investigation. New knowledge and new solutions are often found in unpredictable places. Our scientists must have the freedom to test and investigate the natural world, but this doesn't mean that we shouldn't restrict the applications of what they learn. Canada should stand with the rest of the world in rejecting this research. Our food is too important to risk.

TIM PEPPIN
Opinion Editor



LETTERS

Safewalk not as important as other services

I wish to respond to the 21 March letters written by Davan Russell ("Berghoff" owes campus an apology") and Haley O'Connor ("Berghoff's Safewalk comments insulting") regarding my comments about Safewalk on the Students' Union Webboard.

When I, in contrasting Students' Council with Safewalk, implied that the latter was "some random volunteer organization whose requirements are showing up once a week and putting on a yellow jacket," I was exaggerating. I clarified this on the Webboard eleven hours later, noting that, "Exaggeration is a rhetorical technique used to drive home a point." I was trying to emphasize that it is far more important for the Students' Union, which purports to be a democratic organization, to have a properly functioning Students' Council than it is for it to have a properly functioning Safewalk.

With regards to my comment that "Safewalk is one of the [Students' Union's] less valuable services," I stand by it. The Students' Union provides many services, and unless we care to live in a fantasy world in which all services are of exactly equal value, some are going to be more valuable than others. I, for instance, happen to believe that the Student Financial Aid Information Centre, the Access Fund, and the OmbudsService trump Safewalk in their benefits to the student population. As Student Councilor, it is my responsibility to set the Students' Union's priorities in the face of limited resources, and any Councilor who refuses to publicly weigh the relative importance of different SU spending projects is being at best

negligent, and at worst cowardly. Last, my comments were made in the context of a debate on how to make Students' Council more effective and representative. Several people suggested that doing so, especially if it required additional SU funds, shouldn't rank high on the Students' Union's list of priorities unless it was also prepared to devote more funds to, for example, Safewalk.

The comparison is ludicrous: like it or not, Students' Council has been placed by provincial statute at the head of the Students' Union. Students' Council decides whether a service is useful, whether it meets student needs and whether it lives or dies. For this reason, and many others, the thought of an unrepresentative Council ought to terrify anybody who cares about anything the SU does—including Safewalk. I presume that Mr Russell and Ms O'Connor would have preferred that I not have been elected to Council. Last year, only 107 of 527 eligible Arts students voted in said elections. I would have been easy to defeat.

Councilor elections are today. Vote.

CATRIN BERGHOFF
SU Arts Councilor

New words doing nothing but improving Scrabble, Fedio

I play Scrabble competitively, and I think you should know that the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary is not an arbitrary collection of words and non-words (Re: "New words ruling game of Scrabble," 21 March). It was compiled by referencing four major North American Collegiate Dictionary. Only words that are listed in one of these dictionaries are included in the OSPD. Even so, the OSPD, with about 83,000 entries, is a tiny fraction of the

complete Oxford English Dictionary, which lists some 616,500 words.

I am also not sure how you can so confidently set yourself up as arbiter of what is, and what is not, a "real word." Anyone who has been to Hawaii will have likely seen aa and pahoehoe (different types of lava), and will find the words familiar, not strange. Even my Canadian Oxford lists aa. (By the way, aa is not a new addition to the OSPD. It has been included for years.) My Canadian Oxford also lists qi, and most well-read people will be familiar with this spelling of the word.

Serious Scrabble players would strongly disagree with your contention that the recent update, which added about 3,000 words, diminishes the skill involved in playing at a high level. And, to draw comparisons with steroid use is ridiculous. Everyone has access to the new words, if they possess the skill and determination to learn them. In fact, they're best players have the ability to master different lexica for different tournaments—one for play in North America, and a much larger dictionary for the World Scrabble Championship.

TONY LEAH
Toronto Scrabble Club

Straight razors the answer you're looking for, Pierce

I'm glad that I'm not the only person who thinks that the shaving razor "arms race" is ridiculous. However, in his call for simplicity, Mr Pierce rejects the humble straight-razor of old. Yeah, it takes a little practice, but doesn't everything worth doing? It beats the hell out of any "safety" razor, and, you only buy one for life; there's nothing to throw out!

CHRIS PARKER
Grad Studies, Computing Science

Walking from FAC not an option—don't ban cars and buses

In response to Sarah Holmgren's letter ("Better ways to get clean air than banning smoking," 16 March), I'd like to offer insight on the usefulness of the Faculté St Jean shuttle buses.

Ms Holmgren might not be aware that FSJ courses start half an hour later than main campus (U of A) courses. This is great for students, as they can easily schedule their classes on both campuses without worrying about missing valuable class time.

Ms Holmgren believes that "there's no reason for the shuttle buses to the Faculté St Jean. Come on people, a little scheduling planning and you'd have plenty of time to walk over there." Her logic is flawed, and here's why.

Faculté St Jean is on 91st Street and 84th Avenue—six kilometres from main campus. If a student has a class at main campus right after a class at the Fac, they have 40 minutes to travel to main campus, I, being a long-legged 6'1" speedy walker, couldn't make it to the Business building in 40 minutes—it takes me 45 just to get to 112 Street and Whyte Ave! Even waiting 15 minutes for the next city bus, I'd only get to University station two or three minutes before class begins, which means I'd have to book it to wherever I'm supposed to be, and would still end up being late.

The great thing about the shuttle buses (which we Fac people affectionately call the "minibus") is that we can still get to either campus with at least ten or 15 minutes to spare before class. Given the alternatives, this is a great way to ensure we're on time—just like everyone else.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 10

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JAKE
TROUGHTON

I'm above you. Better than. I'll admit, I don't know who's reading this. I'm sure a large number of you are fine people with many admirable qualities. But the truth is, it doesn't matter. Regardless, the words above will still ring true: I'm simply a better person than you.

The reasons why are obvious to anyone with a sufficiently advanced intellect, but since I'm the only one who actually possesses a sufficiently advanced intellect, I'm afraid I'll have to explain it. I'll try to be adequately simplistic to enable you to decipher my argument.

First, there are my academic accomplishments. When I get my degree next year it will be despite an attendance and effort record of Senate-like proportions. Unlike so many of you who trudge along, struggling to acquire enough knowledge to pass your courses, I have no need for such trifles as "reading textbooks" and "attending classes."

My taste, too, is unrivalled among the general population. There are many nerds out there, for example, but they're all too focused; there are your Star Trek nerds, your Buffy nerds, your sports nerds, your music nerds and so on. These are all well and good, but they're so *limiting*. I recognize the importance of being all of these things.

And even within each area, I'm superior. Many people enjoy watching sports, but few appreciate the inherent value of sport, on a philosophical level, like I do. Many people brag about "liking all music," but no one else has an iTunes playlist that cycles from Buck 65 to Bob Wills.

Then there's my ethical superiority. Most of you are so morally flawed that you gleefully support the institutionalized torture and slaughter of animals simply for your own dietary pleasure. You all know, deep down, that that's stupid, but

I'm one of the few who's managed to overcome the natural human tendency to kid ourselves about it. And that's to say nothing of my generosity, my tenderness and my compassion.

Now, I don't want any of this to come off as arrogance. I have faults, and I'm keenly aware of them. Yet in truth, even in this my inherent superiority is evident. Knowing your faults is the first step to correcting them, after all, and correct them I do. I became vegan; I taught myself to deal with strangers, however inferior; I learned how to carry a newspaper on my back—in short, I'm just constantly bettering myself. I was already pretty damned awesome when I first came to this University, but after seven years of adding even more skills to my impressive repertoire, I can honestly say without hyperbole that I'm a million times more awesome now.

Remember, too, that in the 16 March Gateway I penned an entire article owing up to a rather poor prediction I'd made. How many of you have the grace, the courage and the good humour to humble yourselves like that, not to mention the intelligence to recognize when it's called for? Not many, that's how many. But I do.

Plus, as part of the deal, I even got to lift a national hockey championship trophy. There are only a few dozen other students here who can say that—and they all had to work much harder than I did for the privilege. Sure, they can talk about having "earned it," but I think we can all agree that my way is much more efficient.

I could go on—and on and on and on, because I'm truly fantastic in a plethora of ways—but I think my point is made. I'm so smart in so many ways, so good at so many things, that the fact I'm able to deal at all with people who just don't compare to me—which is to say everyone—is just a further sign of how great I am.

Men want to be me; women also want to be me. Unfortunately, though, none of you can ever be me, and the world is much poorer for it. But at least there's me: a shining beacon of everything humanity could be, but isn't. I hope you all appreciate your good fortune in getting to bask in the presence of someone so great.

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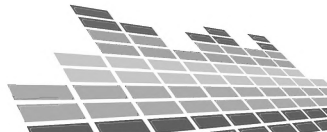
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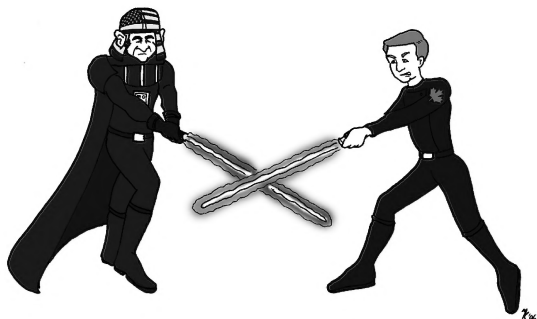
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Star Wars belongs in movie theaters

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Imagine, if you will, a friendly, free-spirited young man, well respected by his peers, yet by no means physically imposing. He has no mortal enemies per se, but is known to be associated, strictly on customary terms, with certain characters of less favourable repute. One of these acquaintances in particular is known, in some circles, to be rather hostile, perpetually engaged in meddling and turbulent affairs.

This grim acquaintance, blinded by his own belligerent perspective, attempts to convince our peaceable friend that he ought to join his gang for protection, lest he find himself alone and in dire straits. Our friend recognizes at once the benefits offered by such an allegiance, but is also wary of its consequences. For one thing, this protection wouldn't be free, and certain undesirable obligations would undoubtedly follow.

More importantly, there is also the likelihood that siding with such a faction, though it would perhaps better insulate one from other hostilities, would also serve to attract them. In other words, our friend's acquisition of a powerful ally might prove to be a Pyrrhic victory of sorts, resulting in more danger than he should otherwise have found himself.

Let such a situation seemed seem purely hypothetical and removed from your daily concerns, consider

this: Canada is, at this very moment, in the same predicament as our aforementioned friend. Specifically, our country is under pressure from the US to join in its proposed Missile Defense System, commonly referred to as "Star Wars" (because, you know, it's not as dangerous-sounding if we're blowing stuff up way out in space).

Logistic considerations aside—namely, that this strategy has been repeatedly proven to be no more promising or effectual than hitting a bullet with a bullet—joining forces with the gang that is the US military is still a decidedly bad idea. Indeed, even if this strategy was guaranteed to work, it would still be unwise to take part. For one thing, you never want rogue states aiming CBMs your way, even if you're fairly positive that they won't hit you; moreover, at least in Canada's case, we shouldn't be encouraging any type of conflict that threatens to escalate above the level of skating around chasing a piece of frozen rubber.

More recently, Bush reiterated his country's "right to first strike," simply based on the suspicion of an incoming threat. Specifically, a White House document from Thursday, 16 March states that, "We do not rule out the use of force before attacks occur, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack ... When the consequences of an attack with WMD are potentially so devastating, we cannot afford to stand idly by as grave dangers materialize."

This brazen statement serves only to remind the rest of the world that America can and will do whatever it wants, whenever it wants, based on entirely unverifiable motives, and that

there's nothing anyone can do to stop them. Such a paradoxical declaration also begs the question: are there any rules or rights in times peace, let alone war? If so, who enforces them, and what's the point of having them?

The problem with preemptive strikes, however, is not simply that they're "unfair"; rather, it's that, unless they completely devastate the source of a threat, revenge will be swift. Or, if they do manage to completely devastate the source of a threat, that necessarily entails devastating an entire nation and millions of people as well. Nor would this be the first time that the US should exercise such a "right": there was that whole business with World War II and Hiroshima, as you may recall.

Fast-forward to 2002, when Bush withdrew his nation from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in order to develop the Star Wars program further; now, four years later, pressure on our country to jump on this ballistic bandwagon is being reapplied thanks to Stephen Harper's rise to power.

Say what you will about Paul Martin and Jean Chrétien, they recognized the dangers of playing with nuclear toys, and made it abundantly clear that Canada would not participate in such a hare-brained scheme as Bush's Star Wars brand of missile defense.

Today, we can only hope that Harper, who has vowed to strengthen ties to our southern neighbour, won't be goaded into joining such a pact for this reason. With his recent surprise visit to Afghanistan, he reiterated his commitment Canada's military, and surely this commitment entails not endangering it, and the nation as a whole, unnecessarily.

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Vice-presidents kept SU on the rails



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

When they put on the conductor's hat and led the Students' Union out of the station at the beginning of their terms last year, the executive committee was full of hope, optimism and a belief that they could make a difference in the lives of their peers. Yet, as they round the last bend before handing control of the SU to another team, they're a much different lot than the people who started out just over eleven months ago. For the most part, this quintet of people who have led the SU for the past year will leave office and will be just as they kept things on track—if just barely, at times—and on time.

While they may not have been the flashiest executive the SU has ever seen, after the train wreck that was their predecessors, Vice-President (Academic) Matt Johnson, VP (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias, VP (External) Sam Power and VP (Student Life) Justin Kehoe can take heart in the fact that they were effective. From keeping contact informed on their projects and goals to developing clear visions for what should be done in their portfolios by the SU, each of these four have deserved far more than the minuscule pay they've received.

In Tobias' case, combining the pay of the entire executive might not cover what his value has been to the SU and students this year. Blunt and single-minded about tasks, Tobias has been able to play the organizational malaise that too often plagues the SU, and has

actually taken action this year—on the PowerPlant above all else.

Though the outcome of his plan still has to be seen before anyone can pass judgment, it's encouraging that Tobias hasn't been content to ignore the thousands of dollars in losses, or to just slap a \$50 000 coat of paint on the wall to make things work. It's just too bad his recent predecessors were, otherwise the SU might be in a different position.

Lettnier has been more eager to offer platitudes and make excuses than to work hard.

In Johnson's case, while he may not have been an ideal fit for the position at first glance, he's been extremely active during his term. He's managed to present a clear and credible case for students when the University has proposed things like increasing the number of exam slots per day, and has pushed hard to get students trained to run smart classrooms. While these might only look like minor achievements, in a portfolio where—thanks to the University's Byzantine structure—real change can take a decade, they're extraordinary.

A similar description fits the job Kehoe does this year, as he's moved the student life position away from just events and has delved into University policy areas. Given the title of the position, this shifting away from events has been important, and will lead to real gains for students beyond free popcorn and movies in SUB.

Focusing the SU's position has been why Power has been an improvement

over her predecessor. Instead of continuously holding concerts and barbecues for the same eight people, she has ensured the external portfolio actually has presented the students' message in a clear and concise manner. Add to that the favourable rumblings coming from the City of Edmonton on running a universal bus pass pilot project sooner rather than later, and it seems Power has made the most of her year.

While the four vice-presidents have and have restored the appearance of competence at the highest level of the SU, President Graham Lettnier has done his best to counter this. Since his earliest days in office, Lettnier has been more eager to offer platitudes and make excuses than to work hard.

By missing important council meetings to play intramural basketball and failing to communicate and coordinate the SU's tuition presentation to the University's Board of Governors with the vice-president (external) and other SU staff, he failed the students who elected him, and who paid his salary in the fall. Unfortunately, it seems he didn't remember that in winter when he missed another chance to represent students by publicly commenting on the provincial government's throne speech—to go skiing.

Add that Lettnier never squandered a settlement and cost the SU thousands in legal fees thanks to his ill-advised comments on the Travel CUTS lawsuit—when it was almost resolved after more than a decade of work—and it's amazing that the SU wasn't derailed entirely this year. But that's something that students should attribute more to the four first-class vice-presidents than to a president whose off-track record from this year may make him only qualified to work for Canadian National Railways.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Me Holmgren, you might not find a lot of students who appreciate it, including myself. I highly doubt that you could make the trek from Fac to Main in 30 minutes, even with the "extra planning." Even though walking to school would be nice, in the interest of time, it simply doesn't make sense. Besides, why deny ourselves the pleasure of being driven by Rémi, Jean-Gilles, or George, the awesome minibus drivers?

AMINATA N'DOYE
 Business V

Ostad's arguments were an embarrassment

This is in regards to the Point-counterpoint, on 21 March. ("The English language needs a new pronoun"). Ostad writes, "there will always be women and there will always be men and nothing will ever change the need in our society for gender exclusivity." Essentially, he's stating that the necessity of creating a society based on gender equity is negated by difficulty Ostad, consciously or unconsciously, serves to market, reinforce and institutionalize social oppression.

Most importantly, Ostad misses the point of Varasva's argument, which draws a connection between language, culture and power. Language carries with it values, assumptions and beliefs, and mediates our actions in society.

Furthermore, Ostad writes, "You can't expect us to change our language simply due to awkward social situations." Indeed, there is an ethical requirement that you do. Currently it's considered inappropriate to use the word "nigger" or "chinkman," where before it was commonplace. To identify with those members of society that are on the margins requires a vigorous imagination. And not for only five days like those well-intentioned business students that will never experience the hopelessness, totality and reality of being homeless. Nor will we, or will Ostad, ever be able to understand motherhood or experience sexism. Varasva simply wants you to be aware and stimulate your thought process.

Realize what you are saying, Ostad: "I've got to say, Nina, I wish I could agree with you. I mean your heart is in the right place." You deserve a pat on the head, Nina. Ostad understands what you are trying to do, but he, as a man, clearly comprehends gender issues and the oppression women face better




than you do. Because you disagree with Varasva, you're implying that she's emotional, irrational and silly. In reality, she is intelligent, articulate and funny. Using words like "fuck," "gitt," "pissed" and "stupid" brings nothing, worthwhile to discussion, it only discredits you. Where Varasva is articulate, Ostad is crude. Where Varasva is clear, Ostad is choppy. Where Varasva is original, Ostad is cliché. Where Varasva demonstrates an understanding of the material, Ostad seems to not know what he is talking about.

FILIP ANI
 Arts IV
 ERWIN SELIMOS
 Education IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise harmful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
				



The BA and Beyond

Why your arts education will pay off after all

Feature by Sarah Grynpas
with files from Claire Crighton

Illustration by Mike Kendrick

MONTREAL (CUP)—In their early days, universities were places for intellectuals, radicals, and artists to create a lasting body of knowledge and foster a culture devoted to understanding the world.

Students received instruction in all disciplines, from languages, theology, and mathematics, which are still taught today, to military engineering, dancing, and fencing, which are decidedly less common.

Students were taught in close, personal settings. At Oxford University in England, the first English-language university in the world, students frequently engaged in discussions with their professors, rather than passively listening to lectures that could have been prepared years ago.

The system wasn't ideal, however. Higher education was virtually forbidden to anyone other than rich, well-connected white men. Universities were often overtly religious, and teaching atheism was forbidden.

Times have changed. An increasing number of prospective university students think that classical education is a waste of time. Students are treated like numbers rather than people. It's possible to attend class and never speak to your professor, and with the advent of recorded lectures and online discussion groups, you're able to ace a course you've never attended at all.

Many students are electing to attend community colleges instead of universities, finding it necessary to learn a skill or trade. A simple BA no longer seems to cut it in a competitive global job market.

Traditional education in a modern world

Every arts undergrad has likely had the experience of answering the question, "So, what are you studying?" from well-meaning acquaintances, only to be met with a blank stare. "Oh. So ... you want to be a teacher, then."

Detractors of the classical arts education claim that students with BAs have no marketable skills. The cliché of the burger-flipping Russian Literature PhD is pervasive in our culture, as is the notion of the rich, pampered arts undergrad, maxing out daddy's credit card on designer clothes instead of attending class.

But Professor Paul Yachnin, chair of McGill's English Department, feels these stereotypes are unfair.

"On the whole, I'd say my students are smarter than the ones I taught 30 years ago. They're better read, they know more, and they think more logically. It might be because high schools are more intense, or because there's more pressure on students."

"Most of the students I've taught at a place like McGill see themselves as intellectuals."

Some students have questioned whether a broad, unfocused humanities education has a place in modern society. A recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that the starting salaries for people with undergraduate degrees in engineering or computer science average over \$50,000 USD. In contrast, someone with a four-year undergraduate liberal arts degree will earn barely half that during their first year in the workforce, and the starting salary for someone who knows a trade, like an electrician or pipefitter, is comparable to that of a recent humanities graduate.

Most arguments in favour of a classical humanities education sound vague at best, elitist at worst. When its advocates defend studying the humanities or social sciences, they usually point to the moral or intellectual development resulting from such

courses of study.

One such proponent is John Fraser. The former editor of *Saturday Night* magazine and current Master of Massey College at the University of Toronto holds one of the few positions left in modern academia overtly dedicated to pure intellectual development.

Although primarily for graduate students, Massey College is one of the few vestiges of a traditional style of university in Canada. The college is an interdisciplinary environment, in which leaders from all areas of society—industry, the arts, and academia—can interact without any focus on earning money or the ubiquitous networking.

"A comprehensive arts education puts you in the pathway of history, gives you perspective on the future. A proper education deeply influences how you see the world," says Fraser.

Today's flawed BAs

However, that doesn't mean the typical modern Bachelor of Arts program is perfect. Fraser believes that most narrow undergraduate arts degrees are a big mistake.

"I don't think most students have decided on their career at the age of 17. They should study a wide range of subjects in order to find what they're truly passionate about."

"University shouldn't be so regimented. I've seen many students have a chance encounter with something they thought they'd never be interested in, and then completely changed their field of study."

Dr. Bernard Shapiro, former principal of McGill and current Ethics Commissioner of Canada, has also been outspoken in his criticism of modern Bachelor of Arts programs. He believes specializing in one discipline, whether it's physics or philosophy, is merely a watered-down version of a doctorate program.

"Students should study the sciences, arts, humanities, and social sciences. It's important to be exposed to the world outside their own fields of study. This gives students a broad range of possibilities to think about their lives. They learn to think critically, not simply repeat what they've heard before."

Shapiro criticizes the lack of science and math included in modern BA programs, arguing that there shouldn't be such a deep gulf between these disciplines. Despite these problems, though, Shapiro believes that a traditional humanities education remains as relevant in the modern world as it ever was. However, he is concerned that some students tend to view a BA as a stepping-stone on the way to getting a job.

"My generation was different. In the 1950s and 1960s, no one worried about earning a living, because there were lots of jobs available. Now, many people are tempted to forgo an education that creates graduates who are morally and intellectually autonomous. I understand the impulse, but I don't think it's the right thing to do."

In the hopes of offering students a more comprehensive education, McGill recently created the freshman Arts Legacy program, a year-long interdisciplinary approach to the foundations of modern society.

Molly Churchill decided to participate in the program because she believes that it gives her a wide, global foundation for further study in the Faculty of Arts.

"It's a way of broadening your knowledge and gaining an understanding of the world," she says, adding that, for her, job prospects are a secondary concern. "I'm against going to school just so you can get a job. Do what you like and something will come along."

Continued on the next page

Escaping the Ivory Tower

Many arts students can't shake the feeling that there's something missing from their education. All the educators interviewed for this article—who have reached the upper echelons of academia—acknowledge that a traditional four-year arts degree isn't for everyone.

Fraser points out that many students go to university straight out of high school because that's what's expected of them. By contrast, in many European countries, it's common to take a year off between high school and university, in order to work, travel, or just mentally prepare for four years of intense study.

He maintains that personal growth shouldn't be sacrificed to education. He finds that many of the problems of modern humanities education could be mitigated if students and professors let their academic education be tempered by non-academic experience.

"The 'Ivory Tower' mentality does exist, but I feel that students with outside experiences get more out of university than those without. Some kids are better served at community college, and aren't able to really appreciate a university education until they're older. The single greatest asset in life is experience."

Fraser emphasized that students who attend university because they feel they have to don't get as much out of their education as they could. To him, a humanities education should not be analogous to how some viewed church attendance in the old days: something all good people did, automatically.

Yachnin concurs. He once knew a student in a creative writing class who displayed tremendous aptitude as a novelist. He talked her out of taking a degree in creative writing because he felt that she would be better served exploring the world outside of the academy.

Breaking the university mold

Although it's something we don't like to admit, social class does inevitably affect how prospective students view the educational experience.

Professor Yachnin believes that the modern university system, despite all its benefits, does shelter people from many of the more unpleasant aspects of life.

"Many university students, especially students at a place like McGill, which doesn't really position itself as a way to gain

entry into the job market, are sheltered from the harsh realities of poverty. They have certain expectations about themselves, about their lives, that aren't always realistic."

Yachnin emphasizes that this is not necessarily a bad thing. "We don't really have a place in society for luxuries any more. Education for its own sake is valuable. It's useful to know things, to be educated, to know about philosophy or Shakespeare, but also to know about the world."

He believes universities would benefit from outreach programs, to attract people who don't fit the stereotypical university student mold.

"When I taught at the University of British Columbia, I had students who were just as smart and capable as the ones at McGill. But a lot of these students were first- or second-generation immigrants who didn't have the luxury of assuming they could get a job without some sort of marketable skills. I had to encourage them to study English literature for its own sake."

Dr Shapiro agrees that cultural factors in our society shape the modern university, and students would profit from being exposed to people and situations they might not otherwise get to experience—both in and out of the classroom.

"I believe that social barriers keep more people out of university than financial ones. Many people do not like the idea of postponing gratification. It's easy to forget that the traditional university culture is only one way of thinking, among many. Not everyone thinks the same way, or has the same goals for a university education."

Shapiro feels, however, that as long as the student has the desire to learn, as long as they're open to the possibility of thinking, having a Bachelor of Arts degree will serve them later in life.

"With all the new technology available, getting an education should be more accessible, not less. With lectures and course materials available online, some people, like single parents, mature students, or people who are housebound have opportunities to get an education."

Professor Yachnin feels that, despite the way many BA programs have changed in order to keep up with the demands of the marketplace, a humanities education still serves the same purpose in society as it did in its inception.

"Universities are for the pursuit of knowledge. Not as 'knowledge malls,' which is what they've become to many people, but as a place where individuals can immerse themselves in studying things not for their utility, but for their beauty."

GSA AGM

Monday, March 27, 2006 at 6pm
Tory Lecture TL-11

All grad students are called to attend the most important GSA meeting of the year! Any grad student can vote on or introduce any item of business at this meeting, so you don't have to be on GSA Council to make a big difference for your GSA at the AGM!

The main items of business will be elections for next year's Executive Committee and reports from the current Executive on the past year. Election polls will open at 5pm and there will be an opportunity to hear the candidates speak at 6pm.

ALL grad students are strongly encouraged to come out and participate directly in your democratic student government!

Attention Grad Students!



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An Aesthetic Approach

The Gateway's Matt Frehner takes a look at the work of four Masters of Fine Arts students at the U of A

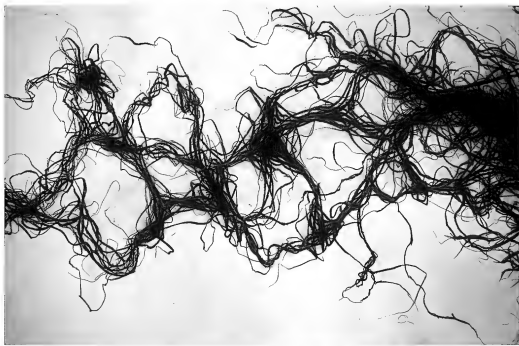


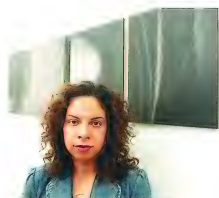
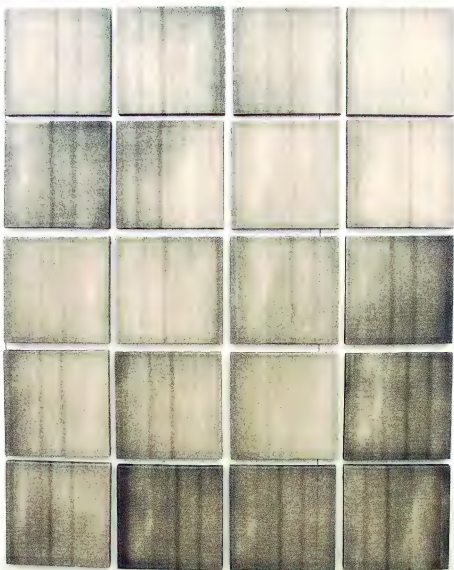
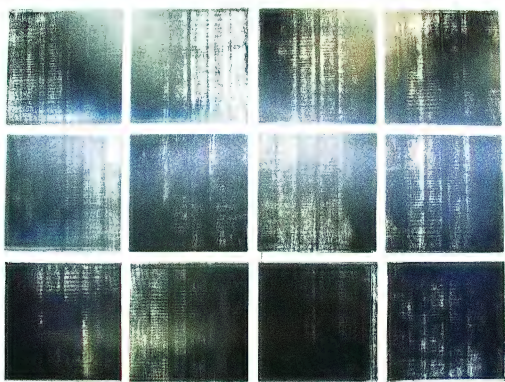
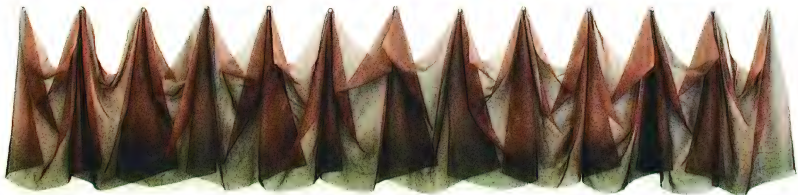
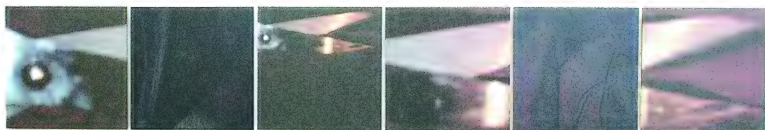
Erin Schwab

A child of Morinville, Alberta, Erin Schwab spent a lot of time in the outdoors, knee-deep in dirt. So when she moved into an eighth-floor Calgary apartment, the self-identified plant nerd had what one might call an identity crisis: she missed the dirt. In order to battle the concrete jungle, Schwab began visiting greenhouses, buying plants, and eventually obsessively drawing them.

Questioning why nature had such a profound influence on her life has led Schwab to the work she does now, a prolonged study of plant roots. At the greenhouse, Schwab was taught that roots are the most important part of the plant; leaves can be chopped off, flowers can be plucked, as long as the root remains strong. Though her work focuses largely on drawing, she also uses porcelain molds, cast from roots she has gathered, to explore their fragility and form.

Schwab's project, in a nutshell, is to introduce people to the beauty of the roots that underlie everything we see. The aim, perhaps, is to understand and evaluate our attachment to surface qualities, rather than what's underneath—what keeps the organism alive. And also, on a personal level, to figure out why she feels such a strong attachment to nature in the first place.





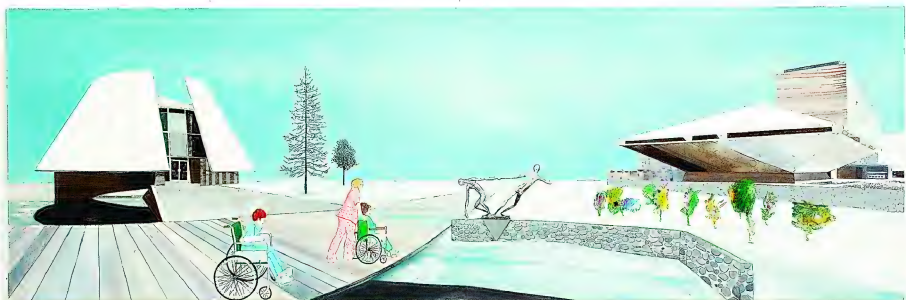
Printmaking

Michelle Murillo

Michelle Murillo is investigating memory. Her work in printmaking involves everything from photographs to silk-screens to ink transfers, all in an attempt to explore the fragmentary nature of our memories. As a result, her work is very modular, and often hints at an image without inducing anything substantive.

Two of her works pictured here involve simply rolling a piece of plywood in ink, and then transferring that ink to either sheer fabric or aluminium. Even though the process is identical, since each piece is a unique impression, subtle differences begin to manifest over time. For Murillo, these prints speak to our desire to distill an image or memory, something tangible, out of a work where nothing concrete exists.

Another way Murillo approaches memories is through an analysis of the film-making process, shown here in the upper set of prints. She juxtaposes macro images of scissors with a piece of hung fabric—a contrast between the fragmentary and the immediate.



Printing Sky Glabush

There's a gentle uneasiness at work in Sky Glabush's paintings. In his earlier work, he shows us a future society, but it seems to be set in the past: we find quintessentially '50s-era folk hanging out among modernist landscapes and architecture, not at all uncomfortable, though clearly not at home. In these paintings, Glabush is playing on, and questioning, the idea of modernism as the path to the utopian society—looking at the absurdity of modernist architecture arising in the post-war 1950s of ugly bikinis and family vacations.

Continuing in the architecture vein, Glabush's newest work involves painting based on three-dimensional models, which he builds to reference traditional modernist architecture. It is, in a sense, an odd way to approach painting. Usually an artist will use paint as a medium because of its broad creative scope, but to Glabush, painting is just a mechanical reproduction of the models he has created—he finds his creativity in the building of these environments. Glabush ends up with a hybrid painting, one that references both the ideas of modernist architecture and the tradition of modernist painting. In all of this, Glabush is evaluating the modernist philosophy that creates living spaces according to precise grids and forms, rather than according to specific human needs.



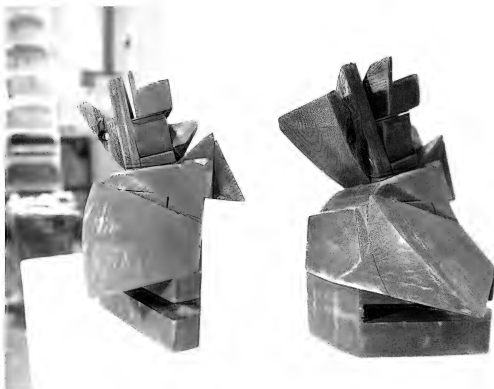


Sculpture Kelly Johner

Walking into Kelly Johner's sculpture studio, the space seems like it belongs more to Bob Vila, rather than, you know, an artist. Johner does her work almost entirely with pre-fabricated wood cut-offs left over from a factory that makes large laminated-beams. As a result, her studio is literally overflowing with oddly shaped wood blocks and sawdust. Emerging from among the piles, though, a few half-finished sculptures look slightly more planned than the chaos that surrounds them—and these are decidedly not a product of *This Old House*.

In discussing her process, Johner describes it as a kind of like Lego for grown-ups. She fits together odd pieces of scrap wood, cuts them into different shapes, and uses glue or some bolts here and there, until eventually a form begins to materialize. The whole act is organic and intuitive, not really driven by an underlying philosophy. But, though it isn't explicit, the play between the organic nature of the wood and its form as industrialized scrap is obvious.

Especially interesting to Johner is working within the bounds of the shapes and materials she's given, and simply allowing the process to unfold. The only concept behind her work might be an appreciation for art as a way of recycling, a response to what she calls our throw-away society. It's a bit like being a kid again, when playing with left over pop bottles and cardboard boxes was always a lot more fun than playing with the new *Transformers*.



SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 23 March, 2006

Thurston, Bears ready to defend University Cup

MIKE KENDRICK
Sports Staff

Last year, they ripped through challengers all season, claiming the Canada West Finals and going on to win the Telus University Cup on home ice. This year, with a new coach, new goaltending and a handful of last season's stars stepping up to lead the team, the Golden Bears have some high expectations to live up to.

Having finished in the number-one spot in Canada West play this year with a 21-5-2 record, the Bears overcame a slow start to the season, attributed partially to reworking the team's chemistry after losing some of the past season's top players to graduation. Coach Rob Daum also left the team to coach the Houston Aeros of the American Hockey League and handed the reins to his long-time assistant Eric Thurston. While Thurston feels the team is prepared, he doesn't undermine the importance of this tournament.

"It's a Russian Roulette tournament. It's one game, and basically you lose that game and you're history," he said.

The Bears will look to the experience in their defensive rosters to put up big stops, while adding support to a well-balanced forward lineup.

"We've got lots of experience up there ... even though we've got a couple new guys like Dylan Stanley and Tyler Metcalfe; they may be first-year guys, but they play like veterans."

At the start of the season, Thurston was also tasked with the challenge of finding the right man to put between the pipes, having lost goaltenders Dustin Schwartz and Bj Boxma. After a tight race for starting position, Thurston now has high hopes for first-year netminder Aaron Sorochan.

"He's carried the bulk of the load from the second half [of the season]. He's a tremendous goalie and we're going to look to see good

things from him in order to be successful," said Thurston, pointing out the value of Sorochan's playoff experience in the Western Hockey League.

This year marks the Bears' tenth-straight appearance at nationals in 31 appearances overall. They also enter as the top seed for the sixth-straight year, with eleven national titles to their credit at this point.

Thurston insists that the numbers don't mean anything, though. "Superstition goes out when the puck is dropped," he said.

The Bears receive a first-round bye thanks to their seed in the tournament, and will face the loser of the McGill-Laurent game on 24 March. Apart from Saskatchewan, the team will be facing all-new contenders this year in the form of the winners of the Ontario and Atlantic divisions. This adds an extra degree of difficulty to the tournament, considering what little experience the teams have with one another. Thurston has no favourites, though, saying if he could have his way, he'd rather see the team face his daughter's pre-novice team in the final.

"I think we can outmuscle them, and I haven't seen much good goaltending from [them]," he said with a laugh.

The jokes stop for Thurston come tournament time, though, as he admitted that his focus won't be on which team they're playing, but how the Bears themselves are playing.

"When you get there, you have no control over that, so you look after your end and just take it from there."

The Telus University Cup begins this Thursday and runs from 23-26 March. Alberta fans can tune in to TSN to catch them play on Saturday at 4pm. Should they win Saturday, they'll qualify for the championship final, which will be played on Sunday at Rexall Place at 7pm. The game will also air live on TSN.



READY FOR ACTION Bears coach Eric Thurston was in good spirits with the media on Wednesday.

Huskies have licked their wounds and are ready for nationals



SEEKING REDEMPTION Huskies head coach Dave Adolph is taking nationals one game at a time.

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

It was one year ago this weekend that the Saskatchewan Huskies had their championship dreams shattered at the paws of the Golden Bears hockey team. Now, the Huskies are back for another shot at CIS gold—but they're insisting that last year's 4-3 overtime loss to Alberta is the last thing on their minds.

"If anything, we just tried to get rid of [the memory]," said Huskies head coach Dave Adolph. "We have enough ghosts from playing the U of A, we don't need anymore."

While it's hard to see how the Huskies could just forget a devastating loss like last year's CIS final, Adolph's assertion that his team has been haunted by Alberta is far from an understatement.

Last season's championship win aside, the Bears could arguably take credit for turning what was the Huskies' cakewalk of a season on its head. Saskatchewan sat on top of the CIS rankings for ten consecutive weeks this year, from 8 November until 31 January. They lost their number-one ranking after the Bears swept them at Clare Drake Arena over the weekend of 27 January. From there, the Huskies made it to the Canada West final, only to be thumped by the Bears in the Canada West Final 2-0 and a resounding 6-1. Adolph said that his team needs to find the formula that was so successful for them in the first half of the season before they can focus on beating the Bears.

"We haven't scored a pretty goal, or a whole bunch of goals, since Christmas. We've been talking about that, trying to work it out. We haven't talked about [last season] at all. [This season was about] the opportunity to have another chance. Hopefully it's against the Bears; that'd be a great chance to redeem ourselves, but we have to win

game one. Our opportunity starts today."

That opportunity starts with the second-ranked and Atlantic University Sport champion Acadia Axemen, who the Huskies will square off with at 1pm today at Clare Drake Arena. Saskatchewan faces the Axemen as the tournament's fifth seed out of six teams—a place that Adolph admitted is far from where he had thought they'd be.

"We haven't scored a pretty goal, or a whole bunch of goals, since Christmas."

DAVE ADOLPH
HUSKIES HEAD COACH

"It doesn't hurt our feelings at all," he said. "The way the rankings work is that as soon as the three conferences are declared champions, they get one through three. The other stuff works out the pools. We had a great run in the first half to be first-ranked and then we got swept by the Bears in early January and lost our seed. I knew we'd be in the opposite side of the Bears whether we won or lost, and we're in tough against Acadia."

Adolph said that with the round robin nature of the tournament, studying up on one team's systems isn't a good idea. He's stressed special teams to his players in preparation for the Axemen, and is hoping that his team will have what it takes to move into the winners bracket from there.

"You can look at Acadia's team play, but all it has to do with is their powerplay and penalty kill. That's your key to success in a one-game shot, is you've got to stop their powerplay and maybe find a chink in their armour. Acadia's unbelievable. They're deep like Alberta and we're not as deep as either of those teams. We're in a tough pool. A tough, tough pool."

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS' UNION

PAUL OWEN
Sports Staff

Five years ago, the Lakehead University Thunderbolts were embarking on their first CIS season. This coming weekend, the school from Thunder Bay, Ontario will be making their second appearance at the CIS national championships in those five years.

The Thunderbolts were surprise winners of the Queen's Cup, awarded annually to the champion of the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) conference, with a 4-0 defeat of McGill. The victory accomplished two of their main goals on the season.

"Our goal this year was to win the Ontario Championship—we have an older, veteran team—and our goal was to qualify for the University Cup," said head coach Peter Belliveau.

Lakehead enters with a 13-9-2 regular season record, but shocked the OUA with road upsets over Western, Wilfrid Laurier and McGill in the playoffs to take the Queen's Cup. Despite the impressive postseason run, Belliveau isn't counting on momentum to be a big factor in the University Cup.

"We've had 14 days between [winning the Queen's Cup and playing at nationals], so it's like a mini-training camp right now," he said. "I think momentum is pretty much gone at this point. We've practiced with five other teams since we won the Queen's Cup, but it's not the same as games."

Lakehead features a veteran-heavy team with ten returning players from their last national appearance in 2003 and four players remaining from their inaugural CIS season. The Thunderbolts have also spent the entire season preparing for the stiffer competition at nationals by playing a difficult non-conference schedule, featuring teams such as Saskatchewan, Calgary and the two-time defending NCAA champions from Denver.

"[U of A sports information director] Bob Stauffer calls our [non-conference] schedule the toughest schedule in Canada, and if you look at it, I think it was the toughest," said Belliveau. "We played more games than anybody else, and we played them all against very tough competition.

Lakehead embraces dark horse status

And that's exactly what I wanted."

Despite being well prepared, the Thunderbolts don't hold any illusions over being a favourite in the tournament, and recognize that they will have to play more disciplined than they did in their victory over McGill in the Queen's Cup, when they took twelve penalties.

"I think discipline [will be something we need to work on]. We need to stay focused and not take selfish penalties. We took some penalties that were very selfish [against McGill] and luckily our penalty killing saved us," said Belliveau.

"[U of A sports information director] Bob Stauffer calls our [non-conference] schedule the toughest schedule in Canada, and if you look at it, I think it was the toughest."

PETER BELLIVEAU
HEAD COACH,

Lakehead will have to play the role of the underdog, but are comfortable in that position, especially having done it all season in the OUA.

"I don't know if we match up well with anyone," said Belliveau. "I think we should be seeded number four, behind Alberta, Saskatchewan—I still can't figure out how they could get blown out in a two-game series like that—and Acadia. I think we're in the tougher division, so I think without a doubt our hard work and depth is going to be key. We're not a one-liner, one-defenceman team; both of our goalies play, and from player one through 22, there is a lot of parity."

"We know we're in tough [in the round robin], and we think whoever comes out of our division to play Alberta [in the final] could surprise them because Alberta has a weaker pool, and our winner will be battle-ready. Everyone is going to be talking about Alberta, Saskatchewan and Acadia, and that's fine by us."

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Childhoods built on crappy summer games

HORSE, soccer baseball, foursquare and rosy red ass make *Gateway* sports writers what they have become today; red rover a potentially fatal game



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SPORTS
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Sports
Commentary

Before you fell in love with the sport that keeps you up all night checking stats and scores online, you spent your summers playing these games. Hybrids of sports that you never thought were imaginable; games that were made up out of the inanimate objects in your backyards; games that were likely designed solely to pass the 25 minutes you had outside during recess when you were a kid. These games and what happened in them when they were being played are how we spent significant portions of our childhoods and created hours (well, at least 30 minutes) of discussion among the *Gateway* sports staff when they were brought up recently.

Trevor Phillips

My favourite summer sports when I was younger have to go to the three basketball epics of 21, HORSE and bump. Twenty-one, the first game I ever learned how to play, is the universal game of basketball in the sense that anyone can play it. Whether the game is played in a gym, with a Nerf ball in a living room, or in a pool, it literally becomes, "Who can hit the most shots in a row," and that supplies endless entertainment with limited physical movement—really, the recipe for an instant classic.

HORSE is the game of outrageous shots and even more outrageous shot attempts. HORSE is great because you can always brag about the time you hit a game-winning shot while standing on one foot, with one hand on the garage door, your eyes closed, singing the national anthem and hitting nothing but net.

Then there is bump: the multi-person, multi-ball, fast-paced game of elimination. No matter if it's a group of five or 25, hilarity is almost always going to ensue. Some of my favourite memories come from playing bump at 10:30pm, outside on the last day of fall. It was cold, dark and slippery, and nobody could get anybody out, so we'd just laugh until we couldn't even run anymore and end up chasing the ball down the street.

These games are great because much like the memories forged while playing them, they'll still be just as fun to enjoy 50 years later.

Chris O'Leary

When I was a kid, I played one year of T-ball and I hated it. My parents forced me to go to the last few games, and when the season ended I said I'd never play it again. The next summer, they tried to get me to play soccer. For some reason, I was adamant that I wouldn't

play it. It may have been the first time in my life that I disliked something because my parents thought it would be good for me.

You can imagine my surprise, then, when one sunny day in May, my fifth-grade teacher, who was clearly sick of teaching us and wanted I July to arrive as soon as possible, thought that we'd learn more that afternoon on the baseball diamond kicking a dodgeball around. Soccer baseball was an early summer phenomenon for me and my classmates every year from the time I was introduced to it in the fifth grade, right through to my last day of junior high. It formed friendships, sometimes caused small brawls and, thanks to some adolescent clumsiness and a little lack on the part of a friend of mine in the ninth grade, it was his gateway to second base with the hottest girl in the class. Try and find me a summer game that shapes lives more than soccer baseball. If you come back to me and say you've done it, I'll slap you across the face and call you a liar. I'm sick of being messed with.

Paul Owen

When I was seven, the school board painted four boxes inside another box on our playground. The outside box was about 15 feet across or so, and we all thought it was some sort of impossibly gigantic game of hopscotch. Then one of the older kids showed us how to play foursquare. Well, that initial game ended when the seventh-grader had doled out two bleeding noses and an additional black eye to his younger competitors, but I fell in love with the game. From the decision to use a dodge ball or a basketball to choosing whether to send it in the flow of play, reverse the flow or attempt the tricky cross-court shot, slapping a ball at my opponents or dodging it nimbly when they tried to hit me and ended up sending it out became my favourite lunchtime hobby. In fact, I'm still undefeated. Bring it on, bitches.

David Berry

My favourite days as an elementary were when the school janitor would go up to the roof to clean off the tennis balls. The skies would rain green, fuzzy spheres, and every fourth- to sixth-grader would once again have their arsenal for the mother of all games: rosy red ass. Essentially an extremely low-rent version of racquetball or something, you threw the tennis ball at the wall and caught it when it came back. The twist came when you dropped the ball—if someone managed to throw it against the wall before you touched it, you had to stand there while that person threw the ball again, this time at your swollen ass.

Between the violence, the chance for fancy plays (between-the-legs catches, bitches!) and the fact you got to swear, rosy red ass was about as wild a recess game as there was. About the only downside was when, inevitably, some-

one aimed a little too high, and we had to wait until next janitor day to get the tennis ball back. On the plus side, when we did get the ball back, the poor kid who threw it up there ended up with the reddest ass of all.

Nick Frost

Gone are the glory days when I was king of the foursquare and home run kicker for the soccer-baseball intramural team. My parents moved me to a bigger school when I was young and that really knocked me down a few pegs. Regardless, all those crazy, quasi-summer-sports we played as kids were an absolute riot. There's too many to pick a winner, so I'm going with both my favourite outdoor and indoor sport.

My outdoor pick, though tough to pinpoint one, goes to ball tag. The ball of choice: one of those mini, plush Eskies' footballs. My reasoning here is completely selfish, though. Back in grade six, I held (and probably still hold) the record for most recesses without finishing as "it." I think the number ended up reaching 23 games, or something. The most enjoyable part was it was knowing that I was a target—if only they'd have looked in the teachers' parking lot.

The indoor sport of choice back in the day was, easily, mini-stick hockey. The boys and I would gather in my friend Steve's basement, with those little white sticks and that little yellow foam ball that, when whipped hard enough, packed enough energy to bruise testicles. We even had mini nets, which was totally hardcore. We maintained some civility during games. Sometimes. However, there weren't any rules, and random mass brawls were pretty much a given.

Ross Prusakowski

While carefree games of street hockey helped to pass many long summer days, red rover is the only game from my childhood that truly holds a special place in my heart. Why, you may ask? To this day, I can still slap on a piece of goalie pads and hit the street for a game of hockey. However, I've been forever forced to watch from a safe distance when lines are assembled and people called over. I won't lie; it tears at my soul not to be out there crashing through arms and "accidentally" running at the girls. In the end though, I have only myself to blame for being permanently excluded.

All it took was one memorable game in junior high of being called over to spoil a promising red rover career. Apparently, knocking people over and breaking their links may be fine—breaking someone's ribs, however, doesn't go over well with a school's administration. Yet, even today, I sometimes linger on the edge of games and hope that someone forgets that when it comes to red rover, you're not allowed to call Rossy over.

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Golden Hawks flying under the radar

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Staff

They may be the lowest-seeded hockey team at the national championship, but the Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks consider themselves contenders for the University Cup. They're hoping that, with some hard work, they can persevere and surprise more than a few spectators when they match up against the favourites.

This weekend will be the Golden Hawks' first time at CIS nationals since the 2000/01 season, when they had a berth as tournament hosts. Their coach isn't worried about going into the tournament with long odds, though.

"We're the classic underdogs in this tournament," said Hawks head coach Stephen Martell. "But we feel that we're good, and that we can compete. We're going to try to win."

"The pressure's not on us, it's on teams like the U of A," he added. "They're in first place, and they have a history of not doing well at events like this. McGill too, has a bad history that way."

The Golden Bears are the defending national champions, and hold eleven CIS banners in the sport, more than any other team. They have three titles from their last nine appearances in the tournament.

Martell had nothing but good things to say about his players, citing teamwork as their greatest strength coming into the tournament.

"We're a good team, and we compete well together," he said. "It's a really tight group. We love going out on the ice, playing the best way we can, and having a good time."

The Golden Hawks had a very strong second half to their season. Despite a weak 5-9-2 start, they rallied together and went 8-2 in their final ten games. They captured bronze in the Ontario University Athletics conference, beating l'Université du Québec-Trinity Rivers to secure the wild card spot for this weekend.

"We've had a really good season, especially in the second half," said Martell. "I think we're peaking at exactly the right time."

The Golden Hawks' opponents won't be



GOLDHUNT Hawks head coach Stephen Martell

taking any chances with them. This year's host team and first-ranked seed, the Golden Bears, will be looking out for the Hawks when they meet them on Friday or Saturday. Bears head coach Eric Thurston echoed Martell's comments on the Golden Hawks.

"I know that they're a very hard-working team," said Thurston. "What I've heard from teams and scouting reports is that they're committed and they get solid goaltending."

"At a tournament like this, you run into teams with good goaltenders, and they're able to change the momentum by making big saves. They can ride a good goaltender all the way to a national championship."

Wilfred Laurier's first game will be against the fourth-seeded McGill Redmen on Thursday at 7pm. If they win, they meet the Golden Bears on Saturday, or on Friday if they lose against McGill.

Martell acknowledged that his players are up against good teams, but he's confident and enthusiastic about his team's chances.

"We want to win; that's our goal going in, and that's why we'll be there."

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This Classified has been running for twelve years

Nova Scotian rapper Classified talks about producing records, the lack of hip-hop radio and playing the rap game in Canada



Classified

Saturday, 25 March at 11pm
Caliente Urban Night Club

RAMIN OSTAD

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Canada's hip-hop scene is a harsh mistress. For most aspiring rappers, gaining credibility is a hard enough thing to do inside major urban centres like Toronto and Vancouver, where the vibe is clearly established. It will likely come as a shock to most that one of the country's fastest-rising rap stars is a white guy from the far coast of Halifax, Nova Scotia. For the last twelve years, rapper Classified has been slowly making his way up the ranks of Canada's hip-hop community—and though he seems like the last person you'd expect to be a rapper, it's always been a part of his nature.

"Basically, when I was like, 15, I just kind of started messing around with it," says Classified. "Actually, my dad was in a band, so we always had gear and microphones in the basement. I kind of just picked it up as a hobby and I just kept going with it, buying my own equipment, building my own mini studio, and just stuff like that."

Twelve years later, Classified has plenty of victories under his belt, including collaborations with acclaimed rappers like Choclate and Royce Da 5'9", as well as being nominated for Rap Recording of the Year and Rap Video of the Year by the Urban Music Association of Canada in 2000 for his single "Unpredictable." However, Classified's favourite career highlight is easy: opening up for Busta Rhymes.

"Opening up for Busta Rhymes was pretty cool, 'cause that was probably one of the best concerts that I ever saw. I've always been a big Busta Rhymes fan, and he's crazy live, so just being able to watch him perform, you can pick and learn so much just from the live shows."

As well as being an acclaimed lyricist, Classified

has become an established producer, which has given him opportunities to collaborate on tracks with veterans like Maestro. After years of perfecting his abilities as a producer, he's found that with all these skills in his arsenal, the challenge is balancing increased responsibilities on an album with the base of the recording—the rapping.

"A lot of people don't want to get into production because it takes away from the rhyiming," he says. "You can't dedicate yourself 100 per cent to working on your flows, working on your rhymes, working on your patterns, stuff like that, because I got a whole other aspect I got to touch on now. At the same time, it lets me craft my whole song. I can go to the studio and say I want to make a track like this, instead of trying to tell another producer what I'm looking for."

However, none of these accomplishments or skills come easily. Gaining the credibility and clout needed to open these doors is a difficult thing in Canada, where the only real national outlet for hip-hop is through videos on Much Music. Without many commercial hip-hop radio stations, underground rappers like Classified have to rely on their own legwork to get heard.

"Radio's a big [problem] in Canada. In the States, each major city has four or five commercial hip-hop stations, and if they never had that, then no one in that city would have heard of that artist. Up in Canada, if you don't have a video, you really don't have nothing, unless you're touring. Like, 360 days a year. There's no way to really get your name out there besides getting that video."

Despite that kind of adversity, Classified has accomplished a lot in his twelve years in the industry. With numerous successes under his belt, he's become a name that's constantly in popularity, notably for outdoing himself with each record.

"When I make my records, if I'm not feeling it more than the last one, I'll just stop making it. If you're not going to step it up, then why bother?"

Solo Strangler on the loose, heading towards campus

Hugh Cornwell

with *Twilight Hotel*
Saturday, 25 March at 8pm
PowerPlant

DANA KOMPERDO

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Ask anyone who has been around the music business for more than 20 years, and you'll probably hear the same thing from each of them: nobody wants to hear the new stuff. The classics always play out best in front of fans, but when Hugh Cornwell, former frontman and driving force behind the '70s UK punk band The Stranglers, comes to town this Saturday, this rule of long-standing rockers might only hold partially true.

When Cornwell split from The Stranglers in 1990, it marked not only a change in the ranks of the longstanding group, but the beginning of a successful solo career. Recalling his time with The Stranglers positively, but starting to lack as a creative outlet, Cornwell is set to crank out some of his latest tracks, while not forgetting that his hits with The Stranglers enabled his current success.

"I have to stress that I'm doing 50 per cent the old Stranglers numbers," says Cornwell from his hotel room in Winnipeg. "So people don't have to be worried about coming and thinking, 'He's not going to play anything, he's just going to play his old boring solo stuff.' I've thought about that and I realize people come to see me partly because of the heritage—the strong rich heritage of The Stranglers."

The fans looking for a blast from the past have indeed been craving Cornwell, and his solo recordings have brought him to several countries in the past years. While the audiences now are filled with fans both old and new, Cornwell notes

that borders don't distinguish audiences. It doesn't matter where they are, or even what language they speak, as the universality of his music and performance comes through to even the newfound fans of his songwriting.

"The audiences, I find, they seem to be very knowledgeable about my past—The Stranglers and what I've done since The Stranglers," explains Cornwell. "And they're not all sort of in their 40s, either. There are some really younger-generation people that are really knowledgeable and seem to be very interested."

Being well-versed in Cornwell's past also means being versed into his past indiscretions. An arrest for drugs marked Cornwell's part of The Stranglers' run-ins with the law, but at the end of the day it was nothing unexpected of a rebellious '70s punk group. While Cornwell was part of a scene that defined itself by sticking it to The Man, Cornwell sees the problem with today's music as an actual absence of things going wrong.

"The difficulty that people writing nowadays have is that everything is politically correct—everything is acceptable and open for discussion," says Cornwell. "It's very difficult to rebel against anything. You know, the whole Bush/war in Iraq thing, that's a great cause for rebellion, but besides that and global warming and the whole weather situation, there's an absence of protest or urge to change things for the better because it's pretty good at the moment."

And things aren't too bad for Cornwell, either, who after more than 15 years alone has established himself as a solo songwriter separate from his identity as The Stranglers' lead singer. Keeping busy, he released his last album *Beyond the Elysian Fields* in 2004 and in the same year published an autobiography, *A Multitude of Sins*, describing his experiences in the British punk scene of the '70s



and '80s. While not yet in the process of recording, he continues to write and keep his next album in the forefront of his mind.

"I went to Morocco for ten days and did a bit of writing down there," says Cornwell. "I mean I had a load of ideas; I just wanted to go somewhere and cut myself off for a little while. So I did that for about a week and I've got about half a dozen songs."

Despite having created more than two dozen

records throughout the course of his career, the process of cutting a disc hasn't become ideal to him just yet. Cornwell describes his theory on making albums as constantly re-creating the same album throughout his career, hopefully to make it even better each time.

"You know, as soon as you finish a record you think, 'Well, it's better than the last one, but I can do better than that,' because in the actual process of doing it you learn so much."

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Matthew Good

Solo acoustic performance
Thursday, 23 March at 7pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre

Exams are inching closer, final papers are approaching their deadlines and the snow is dumping on us like there's no tomorrow. All and all, it truly seems as though we do, indeed, need some sort of emergency relief, so if you're looking for a bit of a break this weekend, make sure you catch Matt Good live at the Horowitz theatre.

Aside from once being a part of the Matthew Good Band, Matt Good is renowned for his political activism and undying fight for the protection of human rights. The Burnaby, British Columbia native doesn't spend all of his time writing angry letters, though; more importantly, he's one heck of a solo artist with a voice that's bound to make shoos of grass penetrate the two feet of snow.

CityAndColour

featuring Dallas Green from Alexisonfire
Friday, 24 March at 7pm
Myer Horowitz

While many have already heard of Matt Good, not many are familiar with solo musician Dallas Green. In short, he's better known as the melodic side of screamo-punk band Alexisonfire, and come this Friday, he'll be showering audiences with his multi-talented musical capabilities.

Under his solo moniker City And Colour, Dallas Green has recently released a full-length album entitled *Sometimes*, a record featuring heartfelt lyrics alongside moving vocals and crisp acoustics. Green's side project is a culmination of years of music he's written on his own, and with the release of *Sometimes* and his current Canadian tour, Alexisonfire fans—as well as those who simply enjoy soft and mellow tunes—will finally get the

chance to see what he's been up to during his spare time.

The Blue Light

Written by Mieko Ouchi
24 March to 2 April at 8pm
TransAlta Arts Barns

If you're looking for something to do that, by some odd chance, involves Canada and a stage and the colour blue, look no further: Mieko Ouchi's new highly regarded play *The Blue Light* is playing at the TransAlta Arts Barns over the next couple of weeks.

Mieko Ouchi is a Canadian playwright who, in the past, has been nominated for the Governor General's Award for her play *The Red Priest*. Ouchi's talents as a writer have been transferred to her latest work, a story that centres upon the figure of Leni Riefenstahl, a controversial woman who changed the foundations of cinema in pre-WWII Germany. A dancer, actor, photographer and filmmaker, Riefenstahl's identity as a Third Reich puppet or innocent documentarian is questioned, and it's for you to decide her true character.

Fait Accomplit Release Party

Monday, 27 March at 7pm
24 March to 2 April at 8pm
Dewey's

It's not everyday that you get to experience the works and projects of your fellow students, so if you want to catch a glimpse of what some of your hard-working peers have been up to in the last little while, stop by Dewey's this Monday for the *Fait Accomplit* release party.

Fait Accomplit is a literary journal produced by students enrolled in Comparative Literature classes, and the release party will involve everything from readings to photography, displays and music. The cost is \$10, and while you're busy enjoying an entertaining evening, you'll be happy to know that your money is supporting a fine group of aspiring writers and artists.

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Sword cuts through modern samurai flicks

The Sword of Doom

Directed by Kibuchi Okamoto
Starring Tatsuya Nakadai, Yûko Koyama and Michiyo Aratama
Sunday, 26 March at 7pm
Metro Cinema

VICTOR VARGAS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Recent martial-arts movies have been flashy, high-profile affairs: unusual fighting moves, insanely high production value and plots that follow the rules of logic and continuity have become standard. However, this belies the origins of the martial arts genre, the '70s films that relied on honour, realistic fighting and a self-explanatory title such as *The Sword of Doom* to tell the story.

Doom follows Ryunosuke Tsukue (Tatsuya Nakadai), master of an unusual fighting technique known as "Silent Stance," who does nasty things like kill old people, sleep with married women and kill people in what are supposed to be non-lethal duels. Ryunosuke continues his wanton destruction until a good samurai, seeking to avenge his brother's death, finally challenges him. Add to this mix the chaotic political times of 1960s Japan and large fight scenes and you have *The Sword of Doom*.

Most people will find the story of *The Sword of Doom* hard to follow, if not near impossible. Several characters are introduced in certain scenes, only for them to disappear for 20 minutes, reappear briefly, and then vanish again just

as quickly. Confused Western audiences have to try to follow this confusing plot while reading subtitles, and they have to remember a slew of Japanese names, many of which belong to characters who quickly die anyways.

Seeing things like a Samurai master stare down ten guys for a minute straight, only to scare two of them off and continue to stare, lends an element missing in modern films.

If you can manage to follow it, the story is actually quite interesting. Many of the actors play deep characters that are brought out by some excellent acting. While not much is revealed in actual conversations, facial glances and other movements tell almost about a third of the story. Director Kibuchi Okamoto manages to explore moral ambiguity in these characters and make viewers question the boundaries of what is right and what is wrong.

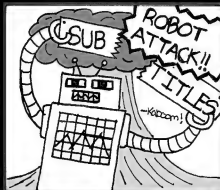
Ironically, even if you can enjoy the story and plot, Okamoto has seemingly ensured that you will be disappointed in the end regardless. The conclusion to *The Sword of Doom* is extremely

ambiguous, leaving many of the plots and fates of the characters unknown. This leaves an unsatisfying feeling, especially considering how difficult it is to follow the film's action in the first place. Still, this indeterminate ending could indeed appeal to some, as its ambiguity, while frustrating, also allows people to design—at least partially—their own ending for the film.

If you're not one for plot, the spectacular fight scenes range from a long kendo death duel to Ryunosuke fighting several men at once. While these fights obviously do not feature extreme stunts seen in modern films like *Kill Bill*, they do manage to bring an air of realism and awesomeness to the screen, seeing things like a samurai master stare down ten guys for a minute straight, only to scare two of them off and continue to stare, lends an element missing in modern films. Not to totally discount the action, though; the last fight scene of the movie is noted as being one of the greatest fight sequences in Japanese cinema history.

While this movie is an excellent cinematic work, much of it now feels like a film that should have been in Mystery Science Theatre 3000. The evil samurai appearing in a pure black outfit, the lesser samurai being senselessly slaughtered by one man and some of the contrived plot devices make this movie a bit ridiculous in retrospect. But then again, when your watching a movie call *The Sword of Doom*, an action-filled, slightly cheesy film might actually fit the bill perfectly.

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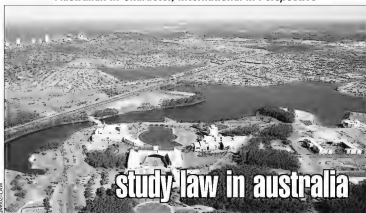
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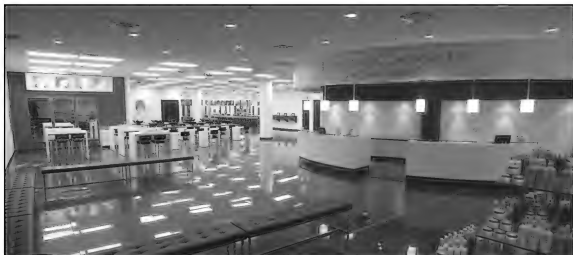
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MIKE KENDRICK
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LISA SQUIRE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Ultimately, *The First Cuts* is a good listen for a weekend of self-pity and depression, but it's no different than the stack of CDs you already keep for the occasion.



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RACHEL MWESIGYE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

However, between the tracks "The Owl" and "Today," the group seems to attempt to hypnotize their audience into a serene state of nothingness due to their deficit of lyrics and backdrop of mellowed-out beats. The one hope for future releases from the band is that if they're capable of matching their lack of lyrics to their fully established sound, the choice of *I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness* as a name will be the group's sole worry.





Tetris still stacks up after 16 years

Tetris DS

Developed and published by Nintendo
Nintendo DS
Rated E for everyone
On sale now

DANIEL KASZOR
Editor-in-Chief

Although the original Gameboy looked more like a Geiger counter than a video game system, and the four-shades-of-puke screen was more apt to induce headaches than euphoria, there was a cartridge that almost everybody who picked up the system loved: Tetris. Now, more than 16 years later, Tetris is making its debut on Nintendo's newest portable system, the Nintendo DS, and the results are equally as pleasurable.

There's a reason why most "Best Video Games of All Time" lists have Tetris near the top: despite its simplicity, or perhaps because of it, Tetris is one of the most joyfully fun and addictive games ever released. Many puzzle games have come since, and while a handful of them are popular in their own right, none have ever quite captured the purity of Tetris' seven-block gameplay.

Over the years, there have been several versions of Tetris released for various systems that have played with the formula and outright abandoned it in many cases. Games like *New Tetris* added strange new block shapes, while *Tetris Attack*—though a good game on its own merits—had nothing to do with the original other than sharing the name. Ultimately, all of the little tweaks usually hurt the gameplay, and overly complicated the simplicity that

made Tetris work.

Tetris DS straddles this line between simplicity and modernization better than any other revision of Tetris. Although it's a shame that the purely original version wasn't included here, the tweaks—the ability to hold a block for later, and being able to view the next five blocks coming instead of just the next one—add a layer of strategy to the endeavor without polluting the main gameplay. Beyond the standard mode, the additional types of game range from cool (Push mode, Mission mode, Touch mode), to lame (Puzzle mode), to just plain weird (Catch mode).

Tetris may not be the flashiest game ... but the overall package offered by Tetris DS is more than worth your time and money.

However, if the only mode included here was the standard one, I would still be recommending this game for purchase—even if you already own a copy of Tetris—because the multiplayer options are worth the price by themselves. Two- to ten-player games are possible with just one copy of Tetris DS, and the optional Mario Kart-style item play between players elevates the experience. Also, unlike those old multiplayer Gameboy bouts of yesteryear, where both players had

to be practically giving each other a hug because of the short cord between Gameboys, the wireless connection works over an approximately house-sized distance.

If you don't have any friends with DSs, or if they go home or smell, you can hook up and play people over the internet. Although you may have to massage your wireless router settings to allow a connection with your system, the process of hooking up to any standard wireless network is fairly simple (although, because of the security protocols they use, you will be unable to use the U of A wireless networks).

Nintendo was going through some issues with their own server on Tuesday, so I haven't been able to play quite as many online games as I'd like. However, from what I have played, I can say that the important game modes are represented, and the pleasure of beating a real human is many times that of trouncing the computer. Additionally, many of the problems found in the online play of Mario Kart DS—such as lammers who drop out of the game to save their win percentages—are fixed here. However, the game doesn't allow for voice chat, which is a shame because the DS is able to handle it (as evidenced by *Metroid Prime Hunters*, also released on Tuesday) and it would have made the people at the other end of my double Tetris smashing all the more human.

Tetris may not be the flashiest game, and you may already have a copy of it floating around, but the overall package offered by Tetris DS is more than worth your time and money. Now I have to get back to playing.

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Panic! At The Disco
A Fever You Can't Sweat Out
Decadance
www.panicatthedisco.com

UZMA RAHAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Following in the genre of bands like Fall Out Boy and The Academy Is, Panic! At The Disco offer an upbeat, catchy album that's sure to please, or at least leave you singing along with their fresh and upbeat lyrics.

The Las Vegas band's freshest release, *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out*, is a considerable change from the Blink 182 covers that they started out playing. The tempos are fast, the lyrics catchy and the vocals do justice to the off-unappreciated pop-punk genre. With the titles like "I Write Sins not Tragedies" and "Lying Is The Most Fun A Girl Can Have With Her Clothes On," the subject matter covered by Panic! is fun and engaging, complementing the

high-paced energy of the album.

A Fever You Can't Sweat Out blends 19th-century accordions with "zaps" from synthesizers, dividing the disc in two halves: the first futuristic, the second nostalgic. The polar opposites work well to create a cohesive sound, blending slower tracks, like the jazz heavy "There's A Good Reason Why These Tables Are Numbered Honey, You Just Haven't Thought Of It Yet," with the faster, toe-tapping "The Only Difference Between Martyrdom and Suicide Is Press Coverage," allowing listeners the best of both worlds. Not for the serious or dour, if you're planning to buy the album, be ready for a frivolous Las Vegas tryst.

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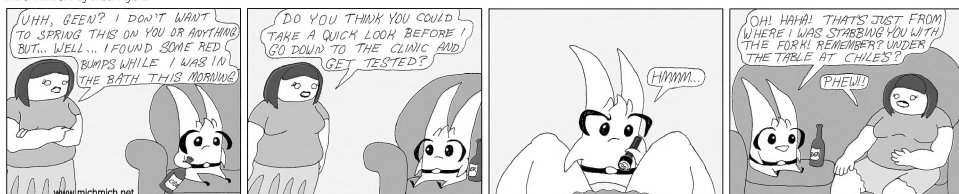
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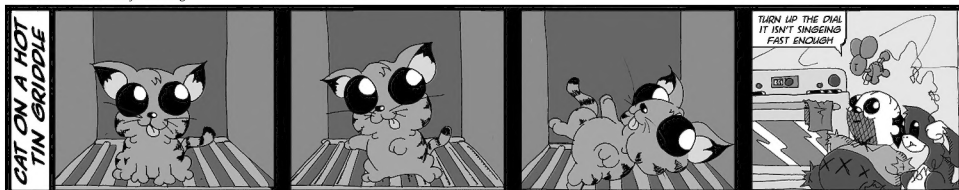
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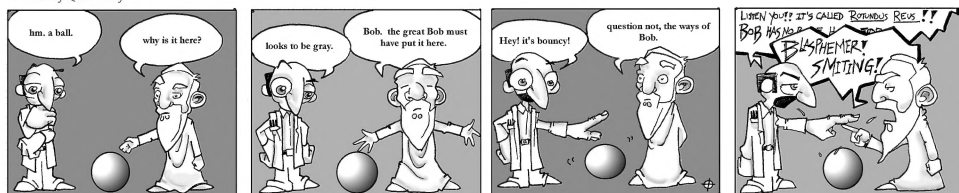
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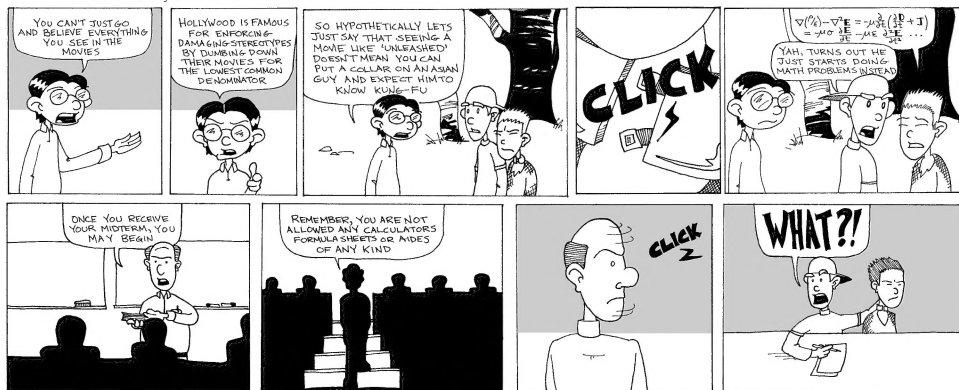
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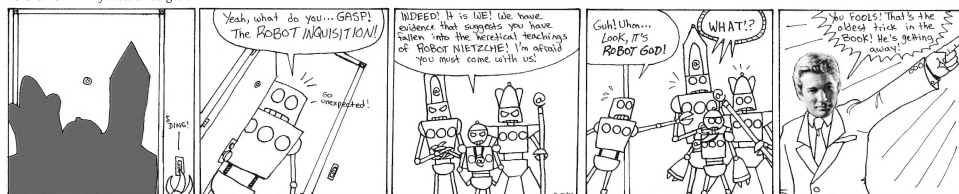
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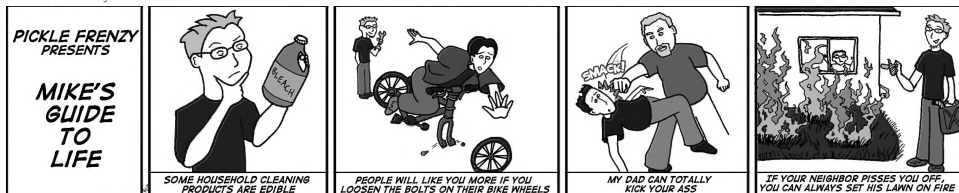
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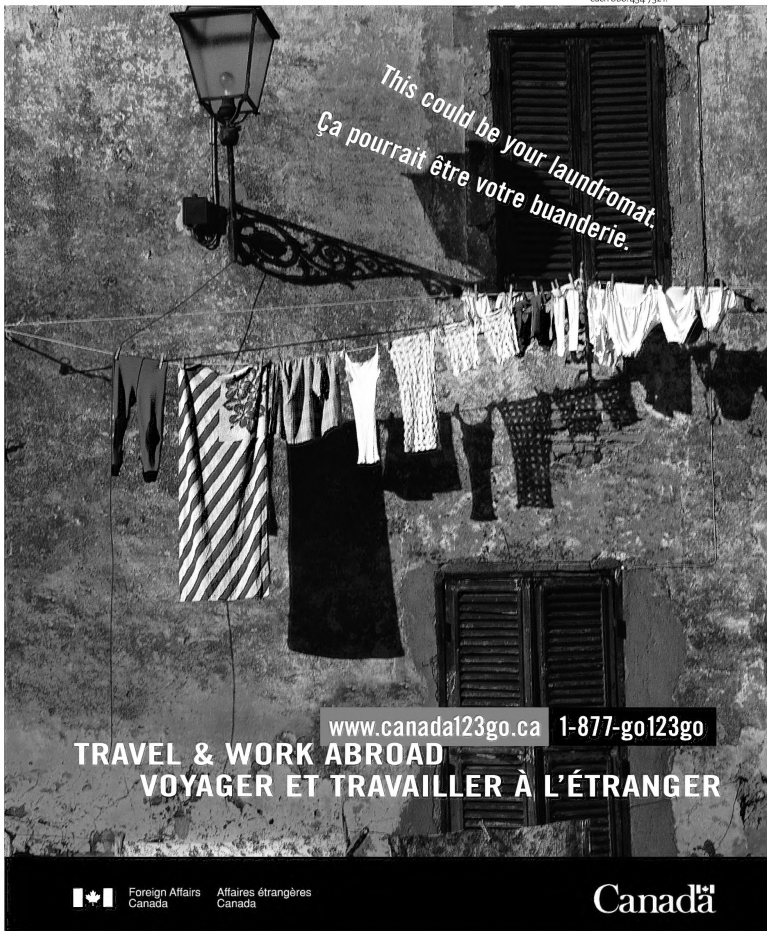
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